

Wednesday
AUGUST 13, 2008

An edition of the
Chicago Tribune
redeyechicago.com

★ **FREE** ★
AP

'TROPIC THUNDER' STORM HITS **40**

Cardinal apologizes
for Chicago church abuse **7**

James Franco kissed
a boy—did he like it? **56**

metromix

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GREATEST. OLYMPIAN. EVER.

Michael Phelps wins record 11th
career Olympic gold medal—is there
any stopping this golden god? **16-17**



2do

» Treats from Starfruit



To top

Craft your own frozen treat at starfruitcafe.com/cafe and you'll get a personality reading you can print for a free topping at Starfruit (1745 W. Division St.).

To meet

Meet Apprentice winner Bill Rancic at a free America's Best Companies celebration from 5 to 10 p.m. Wednesday at One Chicago Place (1211 S. Prairie Ave.) featuring live jazz, food, drinks and fireworks.

To view

Watch short films made in Chicago in 24 hours or less at part of the Diesel Film Racing Tour at 7 p.m. or 9 p.m. Wednesday at Landmark's Century Centre Cinema (2828 N. Clark St.) Tickets are \$9.

To nominate

Submit information about how a woman you know is changing lives by promoting education at maybelline.com/beautyofeducation and she could win a \$10,000 educational grant.



txtable

aye, aye caption

Charlie bit my finger! Ow, Charlie!

—FROM ERIN GRAY

» Who's Charlie? Check this video out at youtube.com/watch?v=_OBlgSz8sSM



Blog-o-riffic



TV TALK

Curt Wagner is always on patrol at his "Show Patrol" blog, covering TV like only a RedEye blogger can. Curt's talking about TV's best lines, so come on down and tune in at redeyechicago.com/showpatrolblog.



THE HILLS ARE ALIVE...

... With the sound of RedEye's Leonor Vivanco, who is headed for "The Hills" at her blog "Head Over Hills." If you haven't checked it out, OMG, hurry—the new season starts in a week. Check it out at redeyechicago.com/headoverhills.



78 63

TODAY'S FORECAST
Maybe rainy.



THU.
80 62
Slight chance of rain



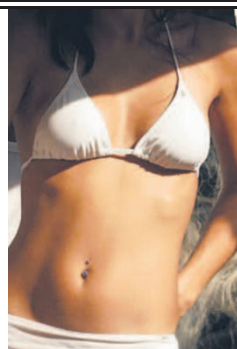
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GOOD DAY/BAD DAY



It was a good day to be ...

A humpback whale. Nearly hunted into history four decades ago, the humpback whale is now on the "road to recovery" and is no longer considered at high risk of extinction, an environmental group said Tuesday. The International Union for Conservation of Nature said the number of these whales has risen to at least 60,000 from the "low thousands" in 1966, when it was banned from commercial hunts.



It was a bad day to be ...

An Amur tiger. Nikki, a 370-pound male tiger at the Erie (Pa.) Zoo, has refused to come out of his den to explore a new \$500,000 exhibit that opened two months ago. Anna, a 300-pound female, regularly prowls the new space. Once Nikki warms up to the exhibit—and to Anna—zoo officials said they will put both tigers on display at the same time. **AP**

Just a pretty face

China says it combined 'perfect voice and the perfect performance'

Associated Press

BEIJING One little girl had the looks. The other had the voice.

So in a last-minute move demanded by one of China's highest officials, the two were put together for the Olympic opening ceremony, with one lip-synching "Ode to the Motherland" over the other's singing.



Yang Peiyi

The real singer, 7-year-old Yang Peiyi, with her chubby face and crooked baby teeth, wasn't good looking enough for the ceremony, its chief music director

told state-owned Beijing Radio.

So the pigtailed Lin Miaoke, a veteran of TV ads, mouthed the words with a pixie smile for a stadium of 91,000 and a worldwide TV audience. "I felt so beautiful in my red dress," the tiny 9-year-old told the China Daily newspaper.

Peiyi later told China Central Television that just having her voice used was an honor.

It was the latest example of the lengths the image-obsessed China is taking to create a perfect Summer Games.

In a brief phone interview with AP Television News on Tuesday night, the music director, Chen Qigang, said he spoke about the switch with Beijing Radio "to come out with the truth."

"The little girl is a magnificent singer," Chen said. "She doesn't deserve to be hidden."

China has been eager to present a flawless Olympics face to the world, shooing thousands of migrant workers from the city and shutting down any sign of protest.

The country's quest for perfection apparently includes its children.

A member of China's Politburo asked for



Lin Miaoke, a veteran of TV ads, lip-synched "Ode to the Motherland" over another girl's singing during the Olympic opening ceremony. **AP**

the last-minute change during a live rehearsal shortly before the ceremony, Chen said in the Beijing Radio interview, posted online Sunday night. He didn't name the official.

"We had to make that choice. It was fair both for Lin Miaoke and Yang Peiyi," Chen told Beijing Radio. "We combined the perfect voice and the perfect performance."

"The audience will understand that it's in the national interest," Chen added.

FUELING THE FIREWORKS

Also Tuesday, Beijing organizers confirmed that some of the opening ceremony's fireworks display—29 gigantic footprints shown "walking" toward the National Stadium—featured prerecorded footage. The footage was provided to broadcasters "for convenience and theatrical effects," said Wang Wei, vice president of the Beijing Olympic organizing committee.

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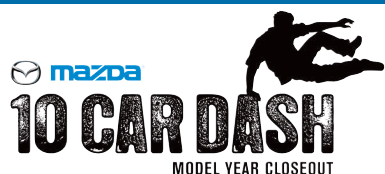
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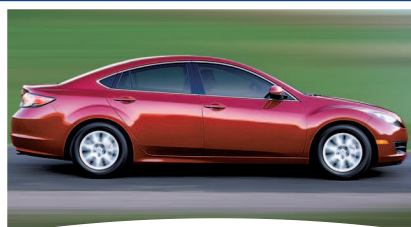
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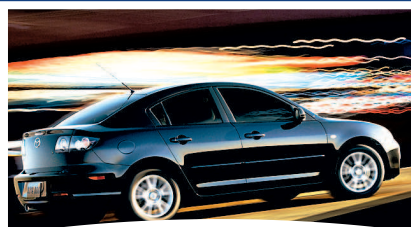


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hey, cta

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SPY FOR THE REDEYE

Join the CTA spies. Agents Double-Oh-Fo and Bev127 are sharing CTA commuter secrets with "Going Public" columnist Kyra Kyles as part of her new bus and "L" espionage program. Click on the "Spy on the CTA" link at redeyechicago.com/ctablog and have your say about the system.

Does the CTA meet all riders' needs?

Readers on the good, bad and loud

Does the CTA satisfy the needs of riders with physical limitations?

The answer is no, if you ask a psychology student who, as a school experiment, rode the Red Line in a rented wheelchair and was featured in Tuesday's "Going Public."

Michael Brennan, 23, said he had a difficult time getting on and off trains, was surprised that some stations lacked elevators, and had to rely on the kindness of commuters for assistance instead of agency employees.

The CTA said it is making more of its 144 stations accessible as funds become available, and by the end of 2009, 91 will be as a result of the Brown Line capacity expansion project. The transit agency also said customer assistants can be contacted via buttons on platforms and on "L" cars.

Riders weighed in with their own opinions on the accessibility issue via e-mail and on redeyechicago.com/ctablog. Others offered kudos and complaints about other aspects of the system.

Show some sensitivity

My mother has had similar difficulties with public businesses, schools, etc. when it comes to receiving assistance. It is never surprising how insensitive the public can be toward others. We always ensure our loved ones are taken care of, but neglect all others. I believe we are all brothers and sisters regardless of what God you believe in.

ADRIAN DIAZ, 26, JEFFERSON PARK

Transit pick-me-up

While I've certainly had my bad experiences on the CTA (being mugged and beaten up on the Green Line while other passengers looked on comes to mind), I've got to say that yesterday the CTA redeemed some of my faith. I lost (translation: forgot) my bike on the west-bound No. 66-[Chicago] bus Wednesday night. On [Aug. 7], I called 1-888-YOUR CTA and got directions to the bus garage [where] my bike was. That afternoon after work, my No. 66-Chicago bus driver not only

gave me directions to the garage and stopped for me even though I didn't know where I was going, he walked me to the garage personally since it was a "rough" neighborhood even though he was officially off of work. Everyone who helped me at the garage was pleasant, polite and helpful, but this driver was the best. I am so grateful to have my bike back, but I'm even happier to know that there are still kind people out there who are willing to lend a friendly hand despite the abuse we sometimes heap on them.

SARAH STICHA, 22, WICKER PARK

Turn it down

Just curious, has anyone mentioned how much louder the trains are now that [they have] eight cars? I thought it was just me, but my neighbors have been talking about it, too. Not that the CTA could do anything about it except run six-car trains again and maybe more frequently to accommodate all the riders.

MARY OLVERA, 29, LINCOLN SQUARE



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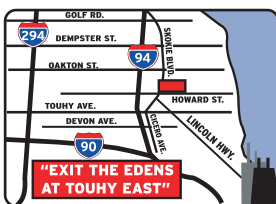
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chicago

CHURCH SETTLES

Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago to pay \$12.7M in clergy abuse scandal

Associated Press

The Archdiocese of Chicago agreed Tuesday to pay almost \$12.7 million to 16 men and women who told of agonizing flashbacks, years in therapy and recurring thoughts of suicide after sexual abuse as children at the hands of priests.

"I apologize again today to the survivors and their families and to the whole Catholic community," said Cardinal Francis George, who also made public an extraordinary 307-page deposition that detailed the church's tortured efforts and, at times, failures to confront the scandal.

George acknowledged that church leaders acted far too slowly in some cases.

"I think all of us failed in the end—I must take responsibility for it," said George, the spiritual leader of Chicago's huge Catholic archdiocese since 1997.

Attorneys said it was the first time such a deposition has been released publicly as part of a settlement with victims. Another similar deposition came out during a clergy abuse trial in California.

Fourteen cases settled Tuesday involve sexual abuse by 10 different priests. Two involve an 11th priest, Rev. Daniel McCormack, who pleaded guilty last year to abusing five children and is serving a five-year prison sentence.

McCormack was arrested in August 2005 after a 10-year-old boy claimed the priest had fondled him. Police said the boy's story was credible but released McCormack after getting a call from an official of the archdiocese.

Jeff Anderson, an attorney for the victims, confronted George as part of the grueling, daylong deposition with a memo saying the archdiocesan official later advised McCormack not to talk to the police.

"Is that something you approve of?" the attorney asked during the deposition.

"No, that's not part of his responsibilities," George said.

One of the plaintiffs, Therese Albrecht, 48, of Steger, said she had been raped and sodomized from age 8 to 11 by Rev. Joseph



Cardinal Francis George speaks to reporters Tuesday about the \$12.7 million settlement paid to 16 men and women who reportedly were abused by priests. **CHUCK BERMAN/TRIBUNE**

ONGOING SITUATION

The settlement brings to \$65 million the total paid by the archdiocese over three decades to settle about 250 claims, officials said. They said mediation continues in about two dozen more cases.

Bennett of Chicago. She said she lived with the agony for decades before finally reporting it and then felt that the archdiocese didn't believe her story.

Bennett was removed as a priest in 2006, about two years after Albrecht came forward. Attorneys for the victims said church officials dragged their feet in acting on complaints against Bennett. George said the investigation was not complete.

Despite the settlement, Albrecht, now a Steger housewife, said "today is not a happy, joyous day for me." She said she had spent years in therapy and at one point contemplated suicide.

"I'm glad I survived this—I didn't think I would," she said.

During the deposition, George also answered tough questions concerning his slowness to throw McCormack out of the ministry.

Two months after McCormack's arrest, a church review board urged George to sever the priest from the ministry.

"They gave me that advice, yes," George said. "I wish that I had followed it with all my heart."

CRIME WATCH

AUBURN GRESHAM

Man was beaten to death

1 An autopsy Tuesday determined that a man found unresponsive near his South Side home overnight had been beaten to death.

Maurice McCollier, 37, was found shortly before 3 a.m. in the 7600 block of South Laflin Street in Auburn Gresham, authorities said.

Police initially believed McCollier had been shot. His death was ruled a homicide.

EAST GARFIELD PARK

Man dies after shooting

2 A man found on a West Side sidewalk with multiple gunshot wounds has died, authorities said Tuesday.

The shooting occurred about 10:15 a.m. Monday in the 700 block of North Ridgeway Avenue in East Garfield Park, a police spokesman said. Neighbors reported hearing multiple gunshots, and officers found Joel Williams, 31, of the 5800 block of West Huron Street unresponsive.

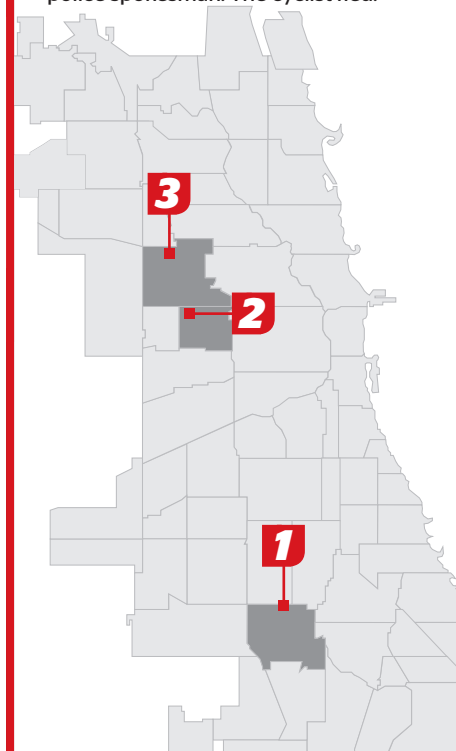
HUMBOLDT PARK

Men shot by bicyclist

3 Two men were shot by someone riding a bicycle Monday in Humboldt Park.

The victims, one of them 18 and the other in his 20s, suffered non-life-threatening injuries, police said early Tuesday.

The shooting happened about 11:30 p.m. at North and Karlov Avenues as a male cyclist rode past, said Officer David Banks, a police spokesman. The cyclist fled.



Motorcyclist killed on West Side

A motorcyclist was killed Monday night when his bike veered over the center line on a West Side street, police said.

The crash happened about 7:20 p.m. in the 100 block of North Central Park Avenue in East Garfield Park, police said Tuesday morning.

Ramon Diaz, 45, of the 900 block of North Harding Avenue was heading south when his motorcycle veered into oncoming northbound traffic, police said. The motorcycle crashed, but police could not specify into what.

Woman killed in O'Hare traffic crash

An Itasca woman was killed in a traffic crash Monday at O'Hare.

Shortly before 5 p.m., Young Ji's vehicle left a roadway inside the airport and struck a light pole, officials said.

Ji, 51, of the 400 block of South Walnut Avenue in Itasca, was pronounced dead later in the evening at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, according to a Cook County medical examiner's office spokesman.

Pedestrian killed

A pedestrian was killed and two other people were injured Tuesday in an accident on the West Side.

Johnny Bell, 22, of the 1600 block of West Madison Street was pronounced dead at 8 a.m. in Mt. Sinai Hospital, said a spokesman for the Cook County medical examiner's office.

The crash occurred about 7:30 a.m. at Madison Street and Pulaski Road in Garfield Park, police said. A van struck Bell, then another vehicle and a bicyclist, preliminary reports said.

2nd cop indicted in towing scheme

A second Chicago police officer was indicted in connection with a scheme to have his car towed away and declared stolen for insurance money, the U.S. attorney's office announced.

Grand-Central District Officer Scott Campbell, 42, of Chicago was charged Tuesday with fraud in a 2007 plan to have his Volkswagen towed and cut up for parts. Campbell allegedly sought to have the car reported as theft.

Charged in June in the scheme was Campbell's friend and fellow officer Joseph Grillo.

Police seek motive in slaying

Chicago detectives were trying to pinpoint the motive in the weekend slaying of Jason Mueller, a pizzeria manager who was shot and killed while apparently trying to hail a cab on the Near West Side.

The shooting occurred near Grand and Wolcott Avenues in West Town after Mueller, 29, had driven a friend home in her car around about 6 a.m. Sunday. He apparently was walking to Grand Avenue to catch a cab home when two gunmen shot him in the street, his friends said.

"This guy had zero enemies," said Walt Oestmann, a roommate and a fraternity brother from the University

HOW TO HELP

Police are asking anyone with information to contact them at 312-746-8252.

of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "[Police] are following all leads and trying to figure it out. It could quite possibly be random."

Friends and relatives said they are hoping the \$10,000 reward they are offering would help lead to the gunmen's arrests.

Mueller grew up in Mount Greenwood on the South Side before graduating from U. of I. and attending graduate business classes at DePaul University, Oestmann said.

With a friend's financial help, he helped open Nonna's Pizza in the Old Town neighborhood in late 2007.

He was there to turn on the ovens when the pizzeria opened every day and lock up at night, said Oestmann's sister Heather, an employee at the restaurant.

Doggone mess

North Side man runs into trouble trying to return pet

As adoptions go, Kori was a terrible fit.

The Catahoula leopard/Labrador mix never got comfortable at Conor McGrath's North Side home. Worse yet, the dog didn't get along with McGrath's other dog, a black lab named Otto.

Under terms of the agreement he had signed with the Almost Home Foundation, a no-kill animal shelter in Elk Grove Village, McGrath had two weeks to decide whether to keep Kori. He returned her to the shelter on March 26, after just six days.

"She just didn't fit in," McGrath said. "I was in tears when I brought her back."

The contract stated McGrath would get his \$250 adoption fee back. But the folks at Almost Home told him not to worry—they hadn't cashed his check anyway.

By mid-summer, McGrath had almost put the experience behind him. Then Almost Home inexplicably cashed his \$250 check in late June.

The deposit pushed McGrath's checking account into the red, resulting in a \$32 overdraft fee. He e-mailed Almost Home immediately. After several messages, the shelter's vice president, Chuck Hanson, called back.

He agreed to refund the \$250, McGrath said, and promised to put it in the mail within days.

As the weeks ticked by, McGrath became anxious. After e-mailing Almost Home several times and getting neither his money nor a reply, McGrath e-mailed the Tribune's "What's Your Problem?"

The Problem Solver called Hanson on July 30. He said McGrath's check had been cashed by mistake, and Almost Home has been searching for weeks to find McGrath's address to refund the money.

"It was an oversight by a good volunteer," Hanson said.

Hanson told the Problem Solver the shelter sent the \$250 refund before the Problem Solver called.



Conor McGrath plays with his dog Otto in his back yard on the Northwest Side. CHARLES OSGOOD/TRIBUNE

The check arrived at McGrath's home last week postmarked July 31, one day after the Problem Solver spoke to Hanson.

On Friday, an Almost Home representative drove to McGrath's Chicago home and delivered \$250 in cash.

Hanson said the organization will not give McGrath an additional \$32 to cover his bank fees.

CHECK DISCREPANCY

The volunteer who filled in the blanks put "\$250" in the numerical portion, but spelled out "Two Hundred Dollars" in the written portion. McGrath's bank refused to accept the check.

By the numbers

Illinois students' scores on a key college entrance exam inched upward this year to the highest level since the state began mandating the ACT for all high schoolers, according to a new report. But the gap between black and white students' scores also has grown steadily in that period. Here's a look at the numbers:

20.7

The class of 2008's average composite score, up from 20.5 for the class of 2007.

36

Total ACT score possible

20.1

Illinois students' average score in 2002.

21.1

The national average composite score, down from 21.2 last year.*

21.25

The "benchmark" score, according to ACT

5.2

White students who graduated this spring scored 5.2 points higher on average than their peer black students. That's up from a low spread of 4.5 points in 2003.

16.8

Black students' average scores in 2008

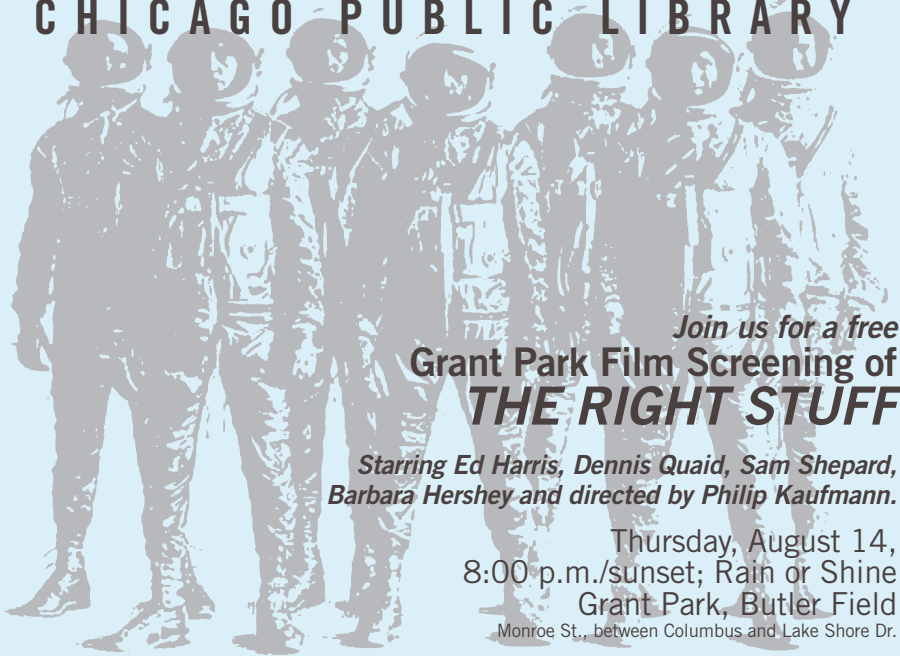
*Illinois results are not comparable with other states, because it is one of only three states requiring all students to take the test. The other states are Colorado and Michigan.



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1 Win for mayor

Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's third trip to court in a week turned into a victory Tuesday when a judge threw out prosecutors' claim that a visit with his sister violated the terms of his bail in an assault case.



AP

2 Pool plea

A swimming pool company president has pleaded not guilty to a manslaughter charge in Stamford, Conn., in connection with the drowning death of a boy whose arm was trapped by a pool's powerful drain pump.

3 Mauled by bear

An 8-year-old Florida boy and his father were mauled by a black bear that pounced on the boy in a creek without provocation in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, authorities in Knoxville, Tenn., said Tuesday. They are ok

4 Student pleads guilty

A student accused of driving through a gathering spot on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and hitting nine people has pleaded guilty to first-degree attempted murder.

5 CIA lawsuit closed

A federal appeals court said Tuesday it would not resurrect a lawsuit that former CIA operative Valerie Plame brought against members of the Bush administration.

6 Iran sanctions

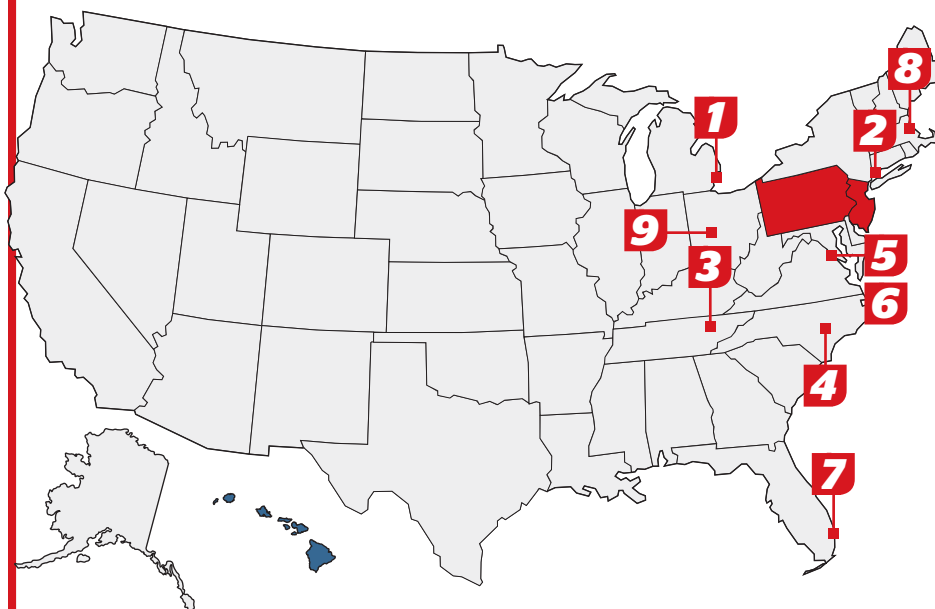
The Bush administration has imposed economic sanctions on five Iranian companies that it has accused of helping the country pursue its ambitions to develop a nuclear weapon.

7 Cops in trouble

A police officer has quit and two others were on administrative leave Tuesday after a patrol car dashboard camera caught them punching and kicking a handcuffed suspect in West Palm Beach, Fla.

**8 EASTON, Mass. A**

small plane carrying a cancer patient to Boston for medical treatment crashed Tuesday in a grocery store parking lot, killing all three people on board, authorities said. Meanwhile, in Needles, Calif., a small airplane taking off from a highway after making an emergency landing was struck by a car Tuesday and the pilot was killed, authorities said. **AP PHOTO**

**WHERE IN THE U.S.A.?**

A look at the candidates' whereabouts on Tuesday:

Barack Obama was vacationing in Hawaii and holding an evening fundraiser in Honolulu.

More than 37,000 Democrats in Hawaii participated in this year's caucus for either Obama or Hillary Clinton. In 2004, the number of Democratic caucus voters in the state was 4,000.

John McCain was talking to voters in York, Pa., before traveling to a fundraiser in Teaneck, New Jersey.

Tickets for McCain's Tuesday night event were \$1,000 to \$25,000. More than 500 people were expected to attend.

Employee takes whopper of a bath

9 XENIA, Ohio The King would not approve.

Burger King said Tuesday it had parted ways with an employee who was recorded taking a soapy bath in a utility sink in one of its restaurants in a video that ended up on his MySpace page.

The nearly four-minute video, which was posted online Thursday, shows the man taking the bath to celebrate his birthday.

In the video, shot by another worker, the employee refers to himself only as "Mr.

Unstable" and appears to be naked.

Timothy Tackett, 25, told WDTN-TV in Dayton that he is the sink-bather and that he made the video for his MySpace page.

The video had been removed by Tuesday night.

Tackett said he regretted taking the bath because it led to the firing of the employee who did the recording, as well as the restaurant's shift manager.

Burger King spokeswoman Denise Wilson said earlier Tuesday that two employees involved in the incident were

fired and a third quit.

She declined to identify the employees or say whether the man who took the bath quit or was fired. Tackett said he was fired.

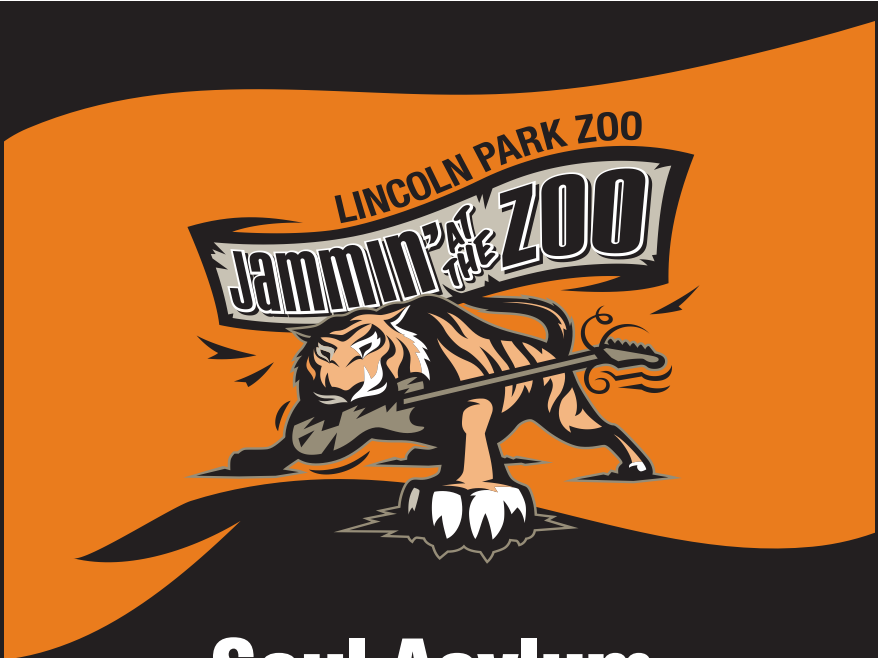
A message left by The Associated Press for a Timothy Tackett in Centerburg was not immediately returned.

Greene County Health Commissioner Mark McDonnell said he dispatched an inspector to the restaurant, but employees had already sterilized the sink, which is used to clean large pieces of equipment.

DIGIT

\$85 billion

Military contracts in the Iraq theater have cost taxpayers at least this much, and, when it comes to providing security, they might not be any cheaper than using military personnel, according to a report released Tuesday.



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with the Pat McGee Band
August 22

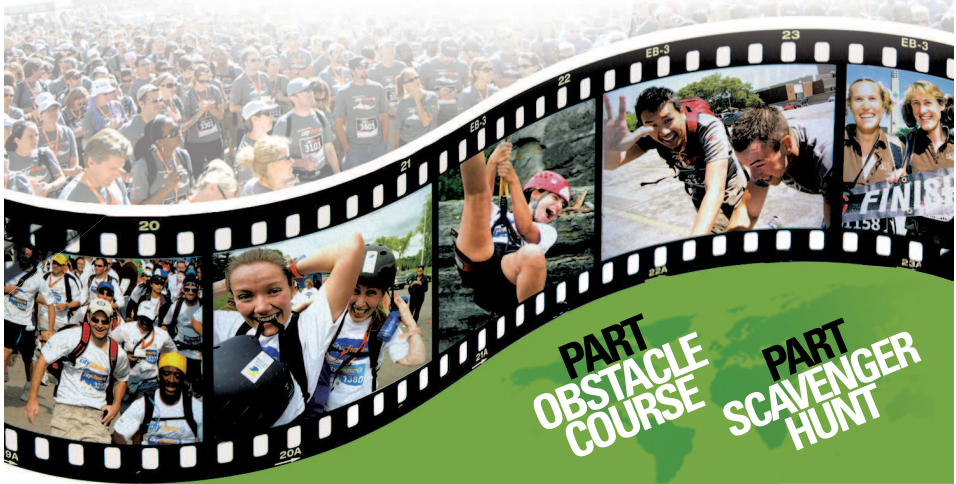
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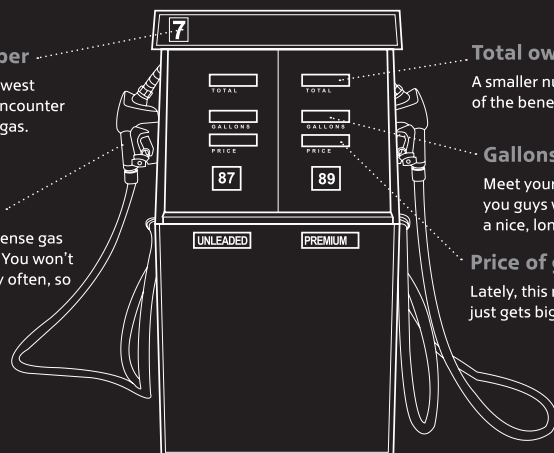
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When Dalai speaks ...

Buddhist monks listen Tuesday in Evry, France, as the Dalai Lama sent China a message of good will for the Olympics and skirted the contentious issue of Tibet at the start of his 12-day visit to France. **AP PHOTO**

NAME GAME

Swedish parents can now name their newborns "Budweiser" or "Metallica," authorities said. For decades, Swedish tax authorities had banned parents from naming their children after fast food chains, rock bands or their favorite brand of beer.

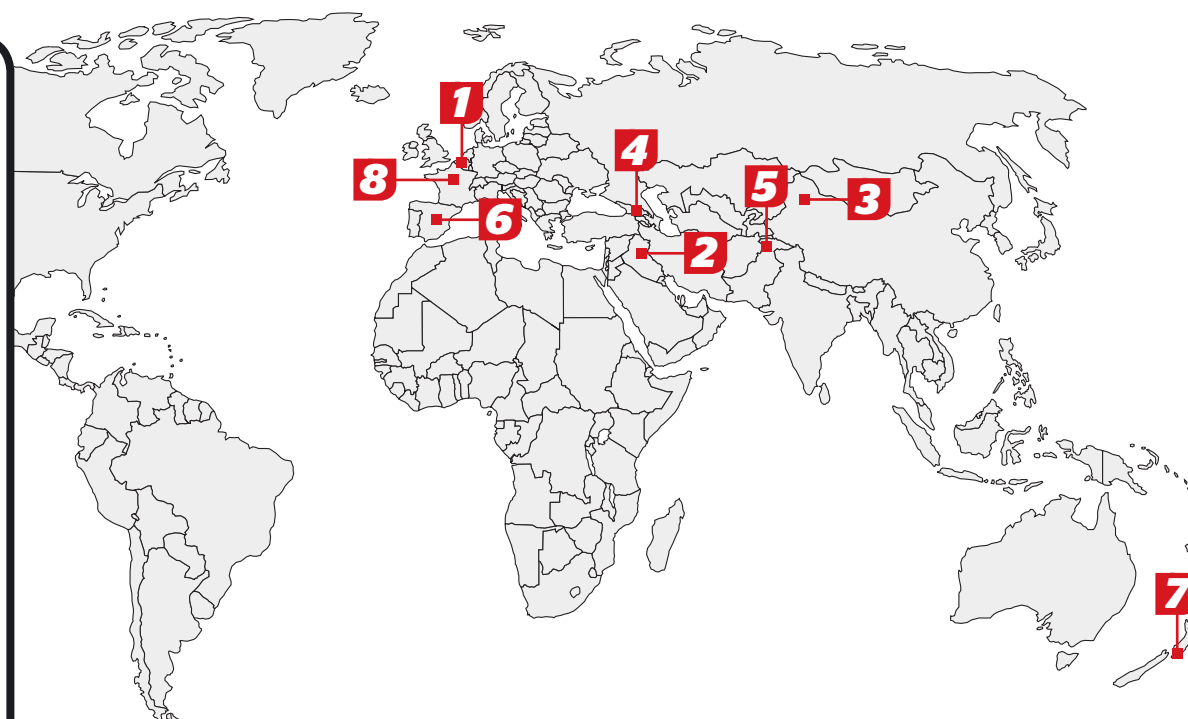
Even with the relaxed guidelines, Swedish authorities still are drawing the line at giving children swear words for names.

But that's not the case in America, land of unusual names. RedEye picked out some of the wackiest nomers.

» In North Carolina, Michael Lee Redmond changed his name to Satan Lucifer Belial Leviathan, according to the Charlotte Observer.

» Diva Thin Muffin Pigeon is one of Frank Zappa's daughters.

» GoldenPalace DotCom Silverman is named for **golden palace.com**, which paid a New Jersey couple \$15,000 to name their baby boy after the company, according to news reports.



Recession? Eat, drink and be merry

As a global recession looms, what better way to cope than to eat, drink and be merry?

Even as consumers face soaring energy costs, rising food prices and higher mortgages or rent, it seems clear they're not prepared to forgo many of life's little treats—alcohol, cigarette and candy makers all are reporting healthy sales amid the gloom.

"I would never give it up, not unless I was dying of alcohol poisoning or something," said Kelly Piggeln, a 62-year-old retired nanny, as she indulged in her favorite two vices of a cigarette and a glass of wine on the patio of a London bar.

Piggeln's stance is being echoed by cash-strapped consumers around the world, a trend that is reflected in strong financial reports this

season from some of the biggest so-called "sin stocks" even as banks and many retailers report sliding income.

Sin stocks, ranging from gambling to liquor, are usually a safe bet in hard times. While shares in some of those companies have fallen along with stock exchanges this year, lots are still seeing strong revenues and sales.

Sam McQueen, a 29-year-old teacher taking a lunch break outside Starbucks in Camden in north London, said she and her boyfriend had recently revised their spending strategy—and stopped buying prepackaged foods at the supermarket to free up money for the treat fund.

"We're going to stop buying silly things like that as opposed to giving up going out for a drink," she said.



AP

1 Where the heck is it?

A man looks for his luggage Tuesday in a sea of thousands of suitcases at Brussels International Airport. Scores of flights were canceled or delayed Tuesday after baggage handlers went on strike.

2 Suicide bombing

A female suicide bomber blasted an Iraqi convoy on Tuesday, killing two people but narrowly missing a provincial governor in the second suicide attack by a woman in Diyala province in as many days.

3 Bus overturns

A bus overturned in a mountainous region of China's west in Xinjiang province, killing 24 students and their parents, state media said late Tuesday.

4 More bombing in Georgia

Russian leaders said Tuesday they had called off their military strikes against targets in Georgia, but bombing persisted in much of the country and the U.S. recommended that U.S. citizens leave Georgia because of the continued attacks.

5 Taliban: This is 'open war'

The Pakistani Taliban declared "open war" Tuesday in response to military offensives in the northwest, saying it staged a bombing that destroyed an air force truck and killed up to 14 people, including a child.

6 Huge cocaine bust

Spanish police, acting on a tip-off from U.S. authorities, have seized 1.4 tons of cocaine and arrested eight South American suspects, officials in Madrid said Tuesday.

7 Pie problem

A New Zealand bakery was ordered to pay more than \$7,700 for selling a pie with a dangerous filling—metal slivers. Brendon Love, needed emergency surgery to remove a metal shaving from his stomach after eating a contaminated breakfast pie last year.

8 Terror probe in China threat

A French judicial official says an anti-terrorism unit is investigating an unsigned letter received by Air China's Paris headquarters threatening reprisals if China does not free jailed Muslims.

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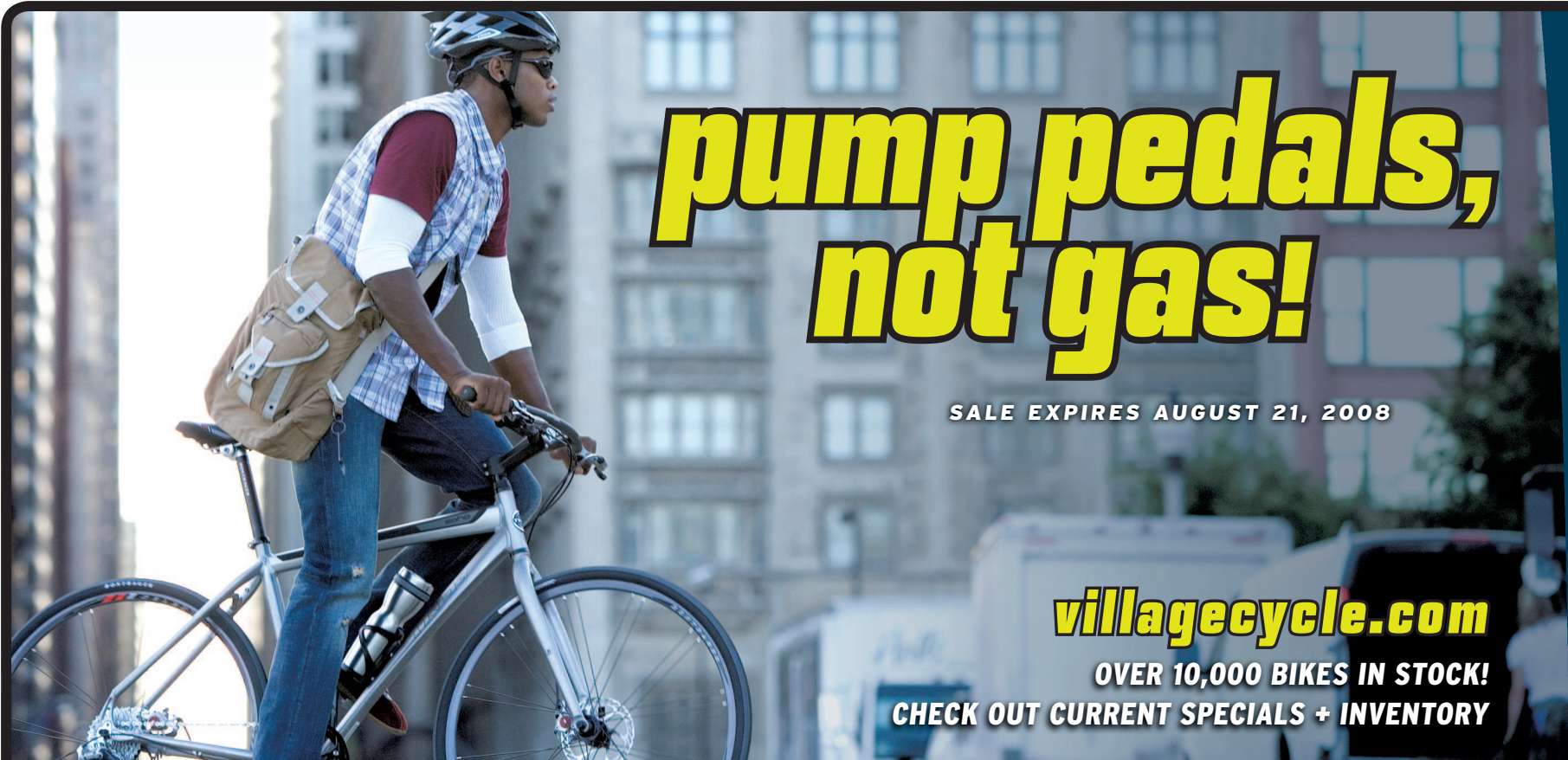
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2008 SUMMER OLYMPICS

At left, the banner reads
"Beijing Olympic Games"
in Mandarin.

MEDAL STAND

Total medals
through late Monday
(Chicago time)

1. U.S. 25
2. China 21
3. S. Korea 12

Gold medals
through late
Sunday

1. China 13
2. U.S. 7
3. S. Korea 5



AMERICAN PIE



A breakdown
of the medals
won by the
U.S. Olympic
team

MEDAL HEADS

Jennie Finch

The Chicago Bandit was the pitching star in the Americans' domination of Venezuela, 11-0, for their 15th straight Olympic victory.

Venus and Serena Williams

Serena won. Venus won. Then, they won together—three victories in one day for the Williams sisters. Each swept their way into the third round in singles, then together knocked off a Czech duo in doubles. In men's singles, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal both advanced with ease.

Rau'Shee Warren

The first two-time American boxing Olympian in 30 years lost 9-8 and left the ring in tears. "I don't even know what happened," he said. **AP**

BEST OF TV

Wednesday's schedule

11 a.m.-4 p.m. (taped)—MSNBC—The U.S. baseball team, using primarily minor-leaguers, meets South Korea in its first game in Beijing. Cuba faces Japan in another opener.

10 p.m.—NBC—Live individual men's gold medal round in gymnastics

1 a.m. to 11 a.m.—USA—U.S. vs Nigeria live men's soccer, U.S. vs Mali live women's basketball, Cuba vs. China live women's volleyball
TRIBUNE

HELLO, HISTORY

MICHAEL PHELPS BECOMES GREATEST AT GOLD—EVER

Associated Press

BEIJING In some ways, Michael Phelps is just your typical 23-year-old.

He hates getting up early. He wolfs down enormous amounts of pizza. He loves texting with friends, listening to hip-hop on his iPod, or just cruising around in a pimped-out ride.

Then he dives in the water.

Nothing typical there.

In capturing the 200-meter butterfly and the 4x200-meter relay with his fifth world record in five races in the Beijing Games, Phelps eclipsed a group including Mark Spitz and Carl Lewis to become the winningest Olympian of all time with 11 gold

medals. And he shows no signs of slowing down.

Phelps had one more final Wednesday—the 800 free relay—and was an overwhelming favorite as the world record-holder in that one too.

That would leave him with only one other thing to do before he leaves China: win all eight of his events to take down Spitz's record of seven golds at the 1972 Munich Games.

When Phelps climbed out of the pool Tuesday after matching Spitz, Lewis & Co. with gold in the 200 freestyle, he unzipped his skintight suit and ambled over to chat with his coach.

"Well, you're tied," Bob Bowman reminded him.

"That's pretty cool," Phelps replied.

Phelps didn't even know until earlier this year that he could become the winningest Olympian ever coming off of his six-gold performance in 2004. It took him just four days in Beijing to pull into a tie with Spitz, Lewis, Soviet gymnast Larysa Latynina and Finnish runner Paavo Nurmi.

"To be tied for the most Olympic golds of all time, with those names, in Olympic history ...," Phelps said, before pausing and letting out a slight chuckle.

Phelps will have three more chances to stretch his lead before he leaves China.

CASTING CALL

Michael Phelps' feel-good story begs for a made-for-TV movie. But who would play him? Here are three suggestions from RedEye. See more casting, **Page 54**



Elliott Yamin
Very similar features. The height difference could be a problem, but what do you think CGI is for?



Eli Manning
Again, same ears, same look. And a champion deserves to be played by a champion.



Adam Sandler
He got buff for the "Zohan" movie. Well, don't pig out just yet.



The U.S. basketball team celebrates after defeating Angola. **GETTY IMAGES**



OLYMPIC HITS

Men's basketball: In a moral victory they could have dedicated to Herlander Coimbra, their countryman whom Charles Barkley elbowed in 1992, the gritty Angolans stuck with the U.S. superstars Tuesday night in Wukesong Arena, losing just 97-76. That was a barnburner

compared to what the U.S. was expected to do with the Angolans starting a front line that went 6-foot-7, 6-6, 6-5. The U.S. plays Greece Thursday and Spain on Saturday.



The U.S. women's soccer team celebrates after defeating New Zealand. **AP PHOTO**

Women's soccer: The Norwegians did the Americans a huge favor Tuesday when they crumbled to Japan, losing, 5-1, at the same time the U.S. was routing New Zealand, 4-0. The results made a huge difference in who plays whom in the quarterfinals (and put the U.S. on a path that could lead straight to the gold-medal game on Aug. 22).

Attendance: Two weeks after announcing they had sold every one of the record 6.8 million tickets offered for the Games, Olympics officials expressed dismay at the large numbers of empty seats at nearly every event and the lack of pedestrian traffic throughout the park, the 2,800-acre centerpiece of the competition. To remedy the problem, officials are calling on teams of state-trained "cheer squads" identifiable by their bright yellow T-shirts to help fill the empty seats.

Ratings: NBC's first four nights of broadcasts from the Beijing Games have averaged 30.4 million viewers during primetime, according to Nielsen Media Research. That's five million more viewers than the network drew during the comparable period of its 2004 Athens Games broadcasts.
L.A. TIMES, WASHINGTON POST

1 Michael's night

Michael Phelps, the Greatest Of All Time, a.k.a. GOAT. Wait, how did this turn into a Cubs conversation?

2 Rug burn?

Olympics coverage began last night with a thick smog over the Water Cube. The only thicker cover resides on Bob Costas' head.

3 Music to my ears

Is there any more majestic and regal music than the Olympics theme? And, no, the theme to "The Hills" does not count.

4 Uh-oh

The U.S. basketball's "Redeem Team" beat Angola 97-76. In case you're wondering, that's not exactly a good sign.

5 Fightin' words

Can't wait for Olympics judo. In America, we call it a hockey game.

6 Why not?

Caleb Hanie as the Bears' starting quarterback? Honestly, could it be any worse than the alternative? I say try it.

7 Drought in the Woods

Tiger Woods says he won't play golf again until 2009. Whoa, I hope he can afford to pay his bills while he's out of action.

8 Speaking of drought

The Cubs were rained out in Atlanta. I'll leave it to you to decide if that is good or bad.

9 Rain man

A bidder has offered \$1.1 million for Pacman Jones' house that went into foreclosure. Whoever it is should pay it off \$1 bills.

FIVE SPORTS THEMES

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Michael Phelps prepares to compete in the Men's 200m Freestyle Final. **GETTY IMAGES**

SAID IT

Not worth Spitz?

"I never got invited. You don't go to the Olympics just to say, 'I am going to go.' Especially because of who I am. I am going to sit there and watch Michael Phelps break my record anonymously? That's almost demeaning to me. It is not almost—it is."

MARK SPITZ

The star of the 1972 Munich Games told Agence France-Presse that he is being snubbed as Phelps tries to break his Olympic record of seven gold medals in a single Games

Introducing ...

... Mysterion, the masked wrestler. He joins Mike North, who handicaps games for **dontfademe.com**. Find them online at **redeyechicago.com/facebookflives**.

**TOPIC****MYSTERION**

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plthompson@tribune.com

LEO EBERSOLE

lebersole@tribune.com

TRACY SWARTZ

tswartz@tribune.com

MIKE NORTH

redeyesports@tribune.com

1 Come up with a nickname for Michael Phelps.

Depth Charge. He blows up whenever he's in the water.

Approved: The Pool Hustler. Rejected: Lap Dancer.

Hmmm. Something with some star power. Splashlee Simpson?

Phelp Thompson, who is trying to break the world record for consecutive lame five-on-five answers.

Is the human fish too obvious?

2 When an athlete sets a new record, how should the old record-holder react?

A simple "congratulations" and a hand shake—or a steel chair over the head!

Whine about your successor's modern advantages, but only in the most gracious way.

By smiling and applauding while an assistant aims a poison-tipped blow dart.

By getting around. Like a record.

Like they all do. Pretend to be happy.

3 Why have there been a lot of empty seats at the Beijing games?

They are waiting for wrestling. I can't wait to see Triple H crush everyone.

Don't worry, the Chinese government will digitally insert them later.

I know! If only China were more populous!

Fewer journalists. They're outside the stadiums begging for change (in the industry).

It's called a made-for-TV event. They really don't need a live audience.

4 Why would you heckle a player at training camp?

Why, did Urlacher complain about me again? Tell him to see me in the ring!

Beats me. You'd have to be a real ... waitaminute, where's Bag Boy?

Because he's Willis McGahee, and he ruined your fantasy team for the second straight season.

Uh, I know a few players who could use some training to prevent being heckled. John Edwards?

C'mon! Never your own guys.

5 An Opening Ceremonies singer lip-synched to a less attractive girl's voice. Comments?

Just put a mask on her. That's what I do ... not that I'm ugly or anything.

Big deal. We got the worst of both worlds when Roseanne sang the national anthem.

Looks like Michael Phelps has some competition for the Splashlee Simpson name.

Oh no! Who's lip-synching Leo's comments right now? Bag Boy, is that you?

Britney Spears made a career out of lip syncing.

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HOMETOWN HITS



Sox starter Javier Vazquez struck out 10 hitters in Tuesday night's victory over the Royals. NUCCIO DINUZZO/TRIBUNE



WHITE SOX 9, ROYALS 0

Javier Vazquez threw eight scoreless innings and Jermaine Dye hit a two-run homer to lead the White Sox to a victory over the Kansas City Royals on Tuesday night. Vazquez (9-10) matched his season-high with 10 strikeouts, gave up five hits and walked one to win for the second time in nine starts. >> Manager Ozzie Guillen warned that pitcher Jose Contreras faces a long rehabilitation from his torn Achilles' tendon after speaking to him Tuesday. "I hope he will [return]," Guillen said. "I have doubts. If he wants to pitch, he's going to go through a lot of stuff. I think Jose's willing to do it."



WMVP-AM 1000's Tom Waddle and Marc Silverman talked with ex-Bear Muhsin Muhammad a day after his criticism of the Bears made headlines. "Moose" told Sports Illustrated's Peter King that Chicago is where receivers go to die. "I was actually responding to a comment that was made, and I guess you can kind of agree with it," Muhammad said. "My career didn't really take off there. I wasn't really directing it at any particular coach or any particular staff member. It was just a situation where I was looking at the receiving corps, as a whole, over the course of time. And you really haven't seen a lot of big-name receivers go to the Pro Bowl for Chicago."



The Bulls released their preseason schedule on Tuesday, and they open against old coach Scott Skiles and Milwaukeee
Oct. 9: 7 p.m. at Milwaukeee
Oct. 12: 7:30 p.m. vs. Dallas
Oct. 16: 7:30 p.m. vs. Washington
Oct. 19: 6 p.m. at Toronto
Oct. 20: 7:30 p.m. vs. Indiana
Oct. 23: 7:30 p.m. at Dallas
Oct. 25: 7:30 p.m. vs. Milwaukeee



Theriot
AP FILE

Reading us the Riot act

Cubs shortstop Ryan Theriot answers **chicagosports.com** readers' questions in a special edition of Ask The Riot.

Ryan, who was the first person to call you "The Riot"? I think it's fitting since everyone says if the Cubs win the World Series there would be a riot in the city.

PATRICK BLANEY, JOHNSBURG

[Cubs announcers] Len [Kasper] and Bob [Brenly] like to take credit for it, but it wasn't Len and Bob. My pop says I've been called that my whole life, but I don't really remember it. I hope you don't riot.

Hi Ryan, just a simple question. What kind of music do you listen to?

DANNY, HALTOM CITY, TEXAS

Simple answer, Danny: Lil Wayne.

CUBS HITS

>> The Cubs game at Atlanta was rained out. It will be made up as part of a day-night doubleheader Wednesday with start times of 1:10 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.
>> Manager Lou Piniella said Kerry Wood might be only one appearance away from returning to the closer's role. Piniella said he planned to give Wood one more appearance in a setup role.

How would you rate the infield playing surface at Wrigley compared to other parks? Would you welcome a new stadium?

DION, CHICAGO VIA CINCINNATI

They've got a lot of work from last year and this year they've been doing on it, and it's definitely gotten better. Whether it's one of the best in the league, I don't think

so. But those guys in the grounds crew really work hard on it to get it ready for us. And no, I like playing in Wrigley, thanks.

Ryan, is Mark DeRosa really as dreamy as he appears via cable, or is he even more gorgeous in real life?

KIRBY ROBINSON, LEWISVILLE, N.C.

He might be the worst-looking guy on the team.

Ryan, who on the Cubs team is most likely to win Last Comic Standing?

NICK, CARMEL, IND.

Demp [Ryan Dempster]. He's hilarious. He's going to do some improv stuff in a couple weeks at Second City. You know we'll be there for that one.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Woods out until '09

Tiger Woods said he isn't going to be physically able to swing a club until 2009. Woods, who underwent reconstructive left knee surgery after winning the U.S. Open in June, wrote on his Web site that he has begun riding a stationary bicycle to start his rehabilitation, but that he won't try to get back to practicing any time soon.

1 inning, 2 homers

David Ortiz hit two three-run homers in the first inning to help the Boston Red Sox score 10 runs in the inning against the Texas Rangers on Tuesday. Ortiz hit his 15th homer of the year after J.D. Drew walked to lead off and Dustin Pedroia singled. Ortiz hit his 16th with two outs, after RBI singles by Drew and Pedroia.

Photos cost wrestlers

Two Nebraska wrestlers have been dismissed from the team after posing naked for videos and photographs on an Internet pornography site. Paul Donahoe and Kenny Jordan were let go Tuesday, three days after a blog posted images of them taken from a Web site featuring naked or partially clothed male athletes.

MOUTHWATCH
"I just went to the bathroom. All the guys said, 'Hey, we play nine in here.'"

MANNY RAMIREZ
L.A. Dodgers outfielder explaining why he was late taking the field in the ninth inning Monday night

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Zed 451
JASON LITTLE FOR METROMIX

Sky wars

Two new rooftops.
One faceoff. Lots of cocktails

By Erin Osmon

Ever wonder how the rooftop crowd gets down? In our effort to find out, we've pitted two new spots in a battle to the last boozy drop. Introducing our contenders:

JUST EAST OF MICHIGAN AVENUE C-View

a brand spanking new 29th-floor indoor/outdoor bar housed in the Affinia Hotel (166 E. Superior St. 312-523-0923).

JUST WEST OF MICHIGAN AVENUE Zed451

the rooftop sister-space to the much buzzed about restaurant of the same name (739 N. Clark St. 312-266-6691).

The place that's worth the risk of waiting in line with That Guy: **Zed 451**

After standing in a line in front of the restaurant for 20 minutes with "I used to be a club promoter, you might have heard of me" guy at Zed 451, the rooftop experience made up for it. Drinks were served ASAP and there were plenty of hot 20- to 30-somethings to drool, er, look at. While we didn't actually have to wait at C-View, we would have experienced a post-wait disappointment with the, ahem, mature crowd and sluggish service.

Best place for voyeurs and quasi-wedding crashers: **C-View**

Due to an altitude advantage at C-View, we had a clear view of a rowdy reception on another rooftop spot. Though we couldn't hear the Bee-Gees or ABBA, flashing

cameras provided the disco lighting and there was some YMCA action.

Best place to accidentally drop your cocktail with a double-digit price tag: **Zed 451**

This party-foul was committed at both bars. (D'oh!) While never ideal, at Zed 451 we had a better chance of having the ridiculously attractive stranger next us offer to help clean it—and us—up.

Best place to bring a 10-year-old: **C-View**

An unusual sight at a bar: a mini-human sitting in a chair on the other side of the patio. Combine that with the sweater-around-the-shoulders, pearl-necklace-wearing demographic and it was a regular family affair. The crowd at Zed 451 gave off a stronger "recreational"

vibe in regards to baby making.

Best place for a quiet, romantic moment: **C-View**

Gorgeous views, plus Sade in the background, plus a patio with room to breathe, equals romantic bragging rights for couples celebrating anniversaries and other Hallmark occasions. One tall blond seemed particularly pleased with her man as they peered over the cityscape while sipping champagne.

Best place to utilize the black portion of your wardrobe: **Zed 451**

From trendy Angelina-esque, floor-length jersey-knit dresses to ubiquitous button-downs, black was the uniform at Zed 451.

Best place to blow your bonus on booze: **depends on your motivation**

If you're a couple, C-View. If you're trying to get laid, **Zed 451**. If you're both, that's just creepy.

Best boxy outdoor patio with a 50/50 concrete-to-organic materials ratio: **tie**

Both rooftop destinations had the "urban organic in a box" thing going on, although **Zed 451** had nicer tables—formed from soft woods and sliced to maintain their natural shape—and a killer fireplace.

Best spot to get away with the "lean against something because I'm too sloshed to stand upright" maneuver: **C-View**

C-View's patio has a long table running through its center that's perfect "lean against" height. A good place to be if you inadvertently or—Lord help you—purposely turn into That Guy and don't

want to stand too close to the edge. (Even though there's glass to prevent a fall.)

Place most likely to induce vertigo or an acrophobic freak-out: **C-View**

While both locations have nice, airy views of downtown, C-View has a 20-something-floor height advantage over Zed 451. If you're trying to recreate "An Affair to Remember," head straight to C-View.

The winner and champion is...

If you're single and looking to mingle, head to Zed 451, but if you're a couple wanting to bask in breathtaking views, trek to C-View. While both offered worthwhile (albeit spendy) rooftop experiences, the major difference was the crowd.



C-View
JASON LITTLE FOR METROMIX





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Message in a bottle

St. Paul's Community Church, 2215 W. North Ave.

Thanks to Austin-based artist Jaclyn Pryor, love isn't just in the air. It's also cruising with bike messengers and—if you're lucky—en route to your sweetheart or—if you're luckier—en route to you, courtesy of **Pink: A (Love) Courier Service**. How it works: Stop by Pryor's temporary "love factory" in Wicker Park and pen a sweet missive. Then—presto!—your sentiments are bottled and sent via cyclists to their destination. 11 a.m. Through Friday. Donations accepted. Contact: jaclynpryor.com/pinkontour.

Class it up

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Books and booze do not an honor roll student make, so leave the books at home before heading off to the **Mojitos 101** class. You could score high marks in bartending at your next soiree if you focus on Victor Beheza's hands-on approach to two recipes for the classic Cuban cocktail. Includes drink samples and appetizers. 6:30 p.m. \$25.



thur
14

'Right' on

Butler Field, Grant Park, 100 S. Lake Shore Drive. 312-747-8191.

Star gazing in Chicago usually requires bribing film crews for actor's whereabouts, not turning your eyes toward the heavens. Not so this Friday, when Bill Murray parachutes from a plane at the Air & Water Show (see page 31 for details). On Thursday, gear up for the event with another blockbuster that celebrates aerial feats, the Oscar-winning flick **"The Right Stuff,"** based on Tom Wolfe's non-fiction book of the same title. 8 p.m. Free.

Culture shock

Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St. 312-443-3800.

Issues usually reserved for dry political dissection get a second wind when satiric trio Culture Clash stages **"Culture Clash in AmeriCCa"** at the Latino Theatre Festival. Funny sketches and witty monologues explore gender roles, illegal immigration, post-9/11 attitudes toward ethnicity and related topics. In English. 7:30 p.m. Through Sunday. \$25-\$35. Tickets: goodmantheatre.org



CULTURE CLASH

fri
15

Last laugh

Donny's Skybox Theatre, 1608 N. Wells St. 312-337-3992.

Ever wonder where comedy troupes find inspiration for sketch shows? Local Asian-American ensemble **Stir-Friday Night!** offers a peek into the creative process of mining laughs with its latest revue, **"Horry Kow: That's Lacist!"** Jason Chin directs. 7:30 p.m. Through Sept. 5. \$10-\$12.

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Dine and dash

New quick Loop lunch spots get you in and out in a hurry

By Heidi Moore

UFood Grill

200 W. Jackson. 312-922-1200

Get past the odd, U-happy menu names—UBowls, Smuuthies and UnFries—and you'll find healthy, quick-serve meals at the first Chicago location of this Boston-based franchise. (Another spot is slated to open in October at 823 S. State St.) Lunch here won't blow your diet. Everything's baked, grilled or steamed, and dishes are heavy on fresh produce and whole grains. The joint even posts nutritional information for each item.

GO-TO ORDER: Tofusion UBowl (\$6.99), organic tofu and veggies with ginger-soy glaze over brown rice. Reward yourself for your healthy choice with some fro-yo. UFood calls its version—what else?—UBerry. We like the raspberry tart (regular \$2.50, large \$3.50).

TIME REQUIRED: 3 to 5 minutes. This one's also a good candidate for a long lunch when the boss is out of town. There's ample table and counter seating for 45.

Simply Fresh Cafe

150 N. Michigan Ave. 312-781-9970

This small cafe-juice bar in the Smurfit-Stone building—a stone's throw from Millennium Park—serves sandwiches, wraps, smoothies, fresh-squeezed juice and a full line of Metropolis coffee drinks. Fro-yo fans can satisfy their cravings for tart, fat-free, creamy goodness here as well.

GO-TO ORDER: California turkey club with avocado (\$5.49). Pair it with fresh-squeezed carrot-apple-ginger juice (\$3.50). Still hungry? Get a fro-yo to go (\$2.99 regular, \$3.99 large).

TIME REQUIRED: About 5 minutes. Simply Fresh seats only 20, so it's better for grab-and-go.

Marc Burger

111 N. State St., 7th floor. No direct phone

The latest addition to Macy's heavenly "Seven on State" food court is an upscale burger spot helmed by celebrity chef Marcus Samuelsson (C-House). The brief menu puts the focus on well-crafted burgers, seasoned skin-on fries and decadent frozen custard treats.

GO-TO ORDER: The turkey burger seasoned with cumin and chives with chipotle mayo (\$7.95, fries included). For dessert, a decadent vanilla custard milkshake (\$2.95) is worth the calorie splurge.

TIME REQUIRED: 5 to 10 minutes. Phoning in your order in advance is nearly impossible, so count on standing in line for a while during peak lunch hours.

Freshii

311 S. Wacker Dr.
312-435-0311

Here's another new, healthy quick-serve spot with a cutesy name. This one's a Canadian franchise, and here, the draw is customizable options. Type-A folks will love grabbing a clipboard, picking a food genre (salad, wrap, bowl or broth-based "soup't") and choosing toppings. For the indecisive, there are pre-composed options. And guess what? The fro-yo madness continues. Here it's called Yoggi. (We're just relieved it's not Yoggi Berry.)

GO-TO ORDER: California Nicoise salad (\$8.50), mesclun greens topped with albacore tuna, tomatoes, roasted potatoes, kalamata olives, peas and boiled eggs.



Freshii garden wrap

KATE DOUGHERTY FOR METROMIX



KATE DOUGHERTY FOR METROMIX

TIME REQUIRED: Less than 10 minutes. There's no seating here, but you might find a seat in the building's atrium. Freshii also delivers by environmentally friendly bike messenger (25 cents an item, no charge for

outpost of the popular Wicker Park and South Loop restaurants. Besides sandwiches, Bionda boasts pasta dishes, salads and other quick lunch items in the classic-Italian vein.

GO-TO ORDER: It's a toss-up between the chicken parmesan sandwich (\$8) draped with marinara sauce and mozzarella and Joe Mama's Meatballs bomber sandwich (\$7).

TIME REQUIRED: Usually 5 to 10 minutes, but lines do form. Order ahead if you can't wait. Because seating is scarce—just a handful of tables—your best bet is carryout.

chips or drink).

Bionda To Go

400 S. Financial Pl. 312-435-0400

Cafe Bionda fans working in the Financial District tend to flock to this daytime-only

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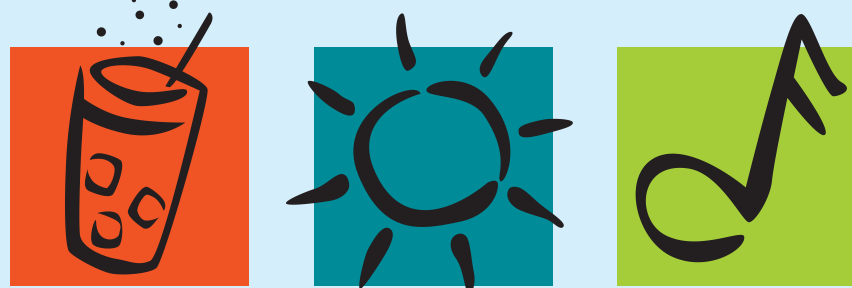
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312 CHICAGO
5-10 p.m. Wed.: \$40 four-course locavore dinner. Chef Dean Zanella uses ingredients from local farmers to create a four-course menu. Sip wine or cocktail pairings for an additional \$15; 136 N. La Salle St. 312-696-2420.

BONSOIREE CAFE & DELICACIES
Wed.: \$5 foie gras with menu purchase; 2728 W. Armitage Ave. 773-486-7511.

CARNIVALE
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Thu.: \$19 three-course prix-fixe farmers market lunch; 702 W. Fulton St. 312-850-5005.

THE CLUB AT SYMPHONY CENTER
6:30 p.m. Thu.: Annual Summer Champagne Tasting. Hart Davis Hart wine buyer and former Tru sommelier Scott Tyree leads a sampling of 20 champagnes such as Dom Perignon, Krug Grande Cuvee Brut and Veuve Clicquot Vintage



Happy Birthday!

Celebrate Marigold's second anniversary Thursday with cocktails and special menu items made by the owner's mom. **BARRY BRECHEISEN FOR METROMIX**

Reserve Rose Brut. Includes appetizers and a tasting book. \$100; 220 S. Michigan Ave. 312-573-5597.

CUPCAKES
10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wed.-Fri.: \$24 for one dozen cupcakes. Includes all flavors. Two dozen maximum, walk-in customers only; 613 W. Briar Pl. 773-525-0817.

CYRANO'S BISTROT AND WINE BAR
Wed.-Sun.: \$20.08 two-course, \$26.08 three-course and \$31.95 four-course dinners until 6 p.m.; 546 N. Wells St. 312-467-0546.

DELACOSTA
6-10 p.m. Wed.: Mojito and Pig Wednesdays. Order a mojito for

\$6 and receive a complimentary Cuban-style roasted pig appetizer served with black beans, kumquat mojo and tortillas; Sun.: Half-price bottles of wine and champagne; 465 E. Illinois St. River East Art Center. 312-464-1700.

EXPOSURE TAPAS RESTAURANT

Wed.: 99 cent oysters; Sun.: Half-price select bottles of wine; 1315 S. Wabash Ave. 312-662-1082.

FRASCA PIZZERIA AND WINE BAR
Wed.: Two-for-one pizzas; 3358 N. Paulina St. 773-248-5222.

KINZIE CHOPHOUSE
3-6 p.m. Wed.-Fri., 4-6

p.m. Sat.-Sun.: \$2.95 and \$5 bar menus with drink purchase; 400 N. Wells St. 312-822-0191.

MARCHE
5:30-10 p.m. Wed.-Thu., Sun.: \$50 Red Light gift certificate with \$20 food purchase; 5 p.m. Wed.-Sat.: "Kooza" menu. Get a four-course themed meal in honor of the Cirque du Soleil production plus complimentary limousine service from the restaurant to the show (reservations required). Dishes also are available a la carte; 833 W. Randolph St. 312-226-8399.

MARIGOLD INDIAN RESTAURANT
6 p.m. Thu.: Second Anniversary Celebration. In honor of the restaurant's birthday, owner Sandeep Malhotra's mother, Balbir "Aunty" Malhotra, comes from India to prepare a special menu of her favorite dishes. Includes a cocktail reception

and wine pairings. Some dishes also will be offered Fri.-Sun. \$68. Reservations required; 4832 N. Broadway. 773-293-4653.

MITY NICE GRILL
11 a.m. Wed.-Sun.: \$17.95-\$28.95 pre-theater menus; 6 p.m. Wed.: Beer Dinner. Master brewer Jason Ebel of Two Brothers Brewing Company and master sommelier Alpna Singh host a reception and four-course meal with pairings. \$40. Reservations required; 835 N. Michigan Ave. 312-335-4745.

NACIONAL 27
5:30-6:15 p.m. Wed.-Sun.: \$29.95 three-course Latin meal with wine or sangria; 325 W. Huron St. 312-664-2727.

PURGATORY PIZZA
Wed.: Half-price appetizers, \$3 Goose Island 312 drafts; Thu.: \$7 pitchers of beer; Fri.-Sat.: Two free toppings on large pizzas, \$2.50

Miller Lite bottles; 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun.: \$13 all-you-can-eat pizza brunch; 3415 N. Clark St. 773-975-6677.

SOLA
Wed.-Sun.: \$10 ice cream flights; Wed.: \$30 three-course prix-fixe menu; 3868 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-327-3868.

SOUTH WATER KITCHEN
11 a.m.-2 p.m. Fri.: \$15-\$20 all-you-can-eat fish fry; Sun.: Three-course family-style dinner (5 p.m.), half-price wine bottles all day; 225 N. Wabash Ave. 312-236-9300.

ZOCALO
Wed.: Half-price bottles of wine, half-price appetizers in the bar (5-7 p.m.); Thu.: \$5 sangrias, \$5 small citrus cazuelas, half-price appetizers in the bar (5-7 p.m.); 5-7 p.m. Fri.-Sat.: Half-price appetizers in the bar; Sun.: \$25 three-course menu; 358 W. Ontario St. 312-302-9977.

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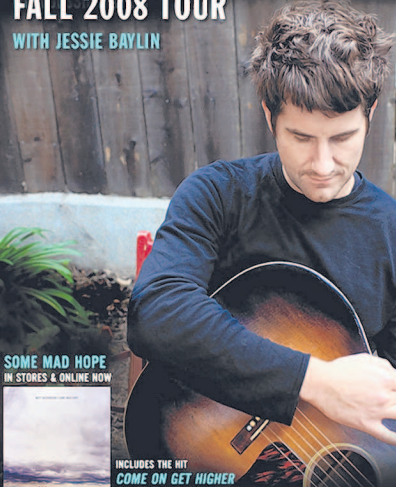


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\$2 off roasted chicken dinners, \$5 Magnar and 312 drafts, \$14 domestic buckets, \$16 import buckets; 420 W. Belmont Ave. 773-248-6654.

BUCKS SALOON
\$2 Schnapp's cocktails, \$11 Miller pitchers; 3439 N. Halsted St. 773-525-1125.

THE CENTRAL
\$3 seasonal martinis and beers, half-price appetizers; 3466 N. Clark St. 773-880-2222.

CUBBY BEAR
Watch the Olympics, get \$10 Miller buckets; \$2 Coors and Blue Moon bottles, \$2 select cocktails; 1059 W. Addison St. 773-327-1662.

THE DARK HORSE TAP AND GRILLE
\$5 meatloaf or fried chicken dinner; 3443 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-248-4400.

GRACE O'MALLEY'S
\$3 Bud and Bud Light bottles, \$6 Jager bombs; 1416 S. Michigan Ave. 312-588-1800.

KIT KAT LOUNGE
9 p.m. "Shear Genius" viewing party. Watch local stylist Meredith Spiros compete in this reality show; No cover; 3700 N. Halsted St. 773-525-1111.

LA TABERNA TAPATIA
\$1 empanadas, \$3 16-ounce Tecate cans; 3358 N. Ashland Ave. 773-248-5475.

LOTTIES PUB
\$2 beer cans, \$3 chicken sandwiches, \$4 cocktails; 1925 W. Cortland Ave. 773-489-0738.

MATILDA
\$5 glasses of wine; 3101 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-883-4400.

MCM PUB AND EATERY
\$2 domestic bottles, \$3 Jack Daniel's cocktails, \$5 tacos; 3906 N. Cicero Ave. 773-736-2644.

MERKLE'S
\$3 Jameson shots, \$4.50 Jameson drinks; 25 cent jumbo wings, \$10 domestic pitchers; 3516 N. Clark St. 773-244-1025.

MICKEY'S TAVERN
\$2.50 Heineken, Heineken Light and Beck's bottles; 2345 N. Leavitt St. 773-394-3037.

PADDY MAC'S
\$2 High Life and High Life Light bottles, \$2.50 nacho platter; 4157 N. Pulaski Rd. 773-279-9300.

PEOPLE LOUNGE
\$3 sangria glasses and Miller Light bottles, \$5 Absolut cocktails; 1560 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-227-9339.

PLAN B BAR + KITCHEN
\$1 Bud Light drafts, half-price appetizers and glasses of wine, Chris Grant of Trippin' Billies hosts open mic 9 p.m.; No cover; 1635 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-252-2680.

ROSCOE'S TAVERN
Free pool all day, \$12 Sauza margarita pitchers, \$3 Bud and Bud Light bottles, Honey West hosts lotto karaoke with prizes, 9:30 p.m.; 3356 N. Halsted St. 773-281-3355.

SHEFFIELD'S
Half-price appetizers 4-7 p.m.; 3258 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-281-4989.

SIDEBAR GRILLE
\$5 Absolut cocktails, \$7 martinis, \$5 boneless wings and spinach dip (3 p.m.); 221 N. La Salle St. 312-739-3900.

SLUGGERS
\$3 Jim Beam and Coke cocktails and Jagermeister shots, \$3.50 Corona bottles; 3540 N. Clark St. 773-248-0055.

SUBTERRANEAN
\$3 Tecates and Ketel One lemon drop shots, DJs Sean Alvarez and Christian Armand spin; No cover; 2011 W. North Ave. 773-278-6600.

UNCOMMON GROUND ON CLARK
\$20 select bottles of wine; 3800 N. Clark St. 773-929-3680.

UNION PARK
\$1 well drinks and domestic drafts; 228 S. Racine Ave. 312-243-9002.

THE UPTOWN LOUNGE
\$4 Hacker-Pschorr and Guinness drafts, \$4 Jameson shots; 1136 W. Lawrence Ave. 773-878-1136.

WABASH TAP
\$14 Bud and Bud Light buckets, \$5.50 reubens; 1233 S. Wabash Ave. 312-360-9488.

WESTEND BAR & GRILL
\$5 salads, \$5 glasses of wine; 1326 W. Madison St. 312-981-7100.

YAK-ZIES
\$3 KJ's Ale drafts, \$2 Miller Lite and Bud Light pints, \$2.50 Miller High Life bottles, \$4 burgers, half-price wings (5 p.m.-midnight); 3710 N. Clark St. 773-525-9200.

ZAPATISTA
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NIGHTCRAWLERS

Royale treatment
They came, they saw, they drank bartender Nicolas Bremond's specialty cocktails. It all happened last weekend at **Club Royale** (205 N. Peoria St. Chicago, 312-666-9400), a new lounge in the Warehouse District. Want more tips on new bars? Visit [metromix.com](#) for pics and upcoming events.



CHUAN D. VO FOR METROMIX

fest flash

North Side Summerfest

When: 5 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. Saturday-Sunday

Where: Lincoln and Belle Plaine Avenues in North Center

Entry: \$5

Get there: No. 11 Lincoln bus; Western Brown Line "L" stop

The basics: If your tolerance for sweaty, beer-spilling crowds is wearing thin, try your luck at this relative newbie in the cozy North Center neighborhood. Organizers expect more than 20,000 fun-loving locals at the third annual fest, but that's low foam compared to the outpouring of two million expected at North Avenue Beach for this weekend's Air & Water Show's (details below). The third annual fest sticks to the standard formula of music, food and arts and crafts, so you're sure to find your footing even if crowds get thick.

Don't miss: Party bands 7th Heaven (Friday, pictured at top), 16 Candles (Saturday) and Hairbangers Ball (Sunday).



CHUAN D. VO FOR METROMIX



BONNIE TRAFELET/TRIBUNE FILE



JOHN SMIERCIAK/TRIBUNE FILE

descent at the fifth annual fest on Saturday in the Humboldt Park Fieldhouse.



Chicago Carifete
A parade highlights the 13th annual Caribbean-

style carnival in Hyde Park. Watch as costumed dancers, musicians and DJs strut their stuff along Midway Plaisance for the chance to win prizes. Also includes food, arts and crafts and live music. Saturday.



Croatian Fest
Head to Bridgeport on Friday for the 102nd annual fest, where plenty of roasted lamb and

pig are on the menu, plus homemade Croatian foods such as fritula (fried dough), risotto and sauerkraut. A beer garden, dancing and songs round it out. Princeton Avenue and 28th Place.

The Raven: Experience the Magic of Ravenswood

Be first on the scene for this new party in Chase Park and along adjacent Clark Street. The inaugural, dramatically named fest includes live music on two stages, a marketplace, and food, beer and wine vendors. Saturday and Sunday.

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MORE FESTIVALS



Chicago Air & Water Show
Bill Murray jumps out of

a plane with the Golden Knights parachute team on Friday as part of the show's 50th anniversary. Also on Friday: Florence Henderson sings the national anthem (3 p.m.), Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band perform a lakefront concert (5 p.m.), and a fireworks display (8:45 p.m.) rounds out the night. Watch from North Avenue Beach or Oak Street Beach for best views. Air and water stunts continue through Sunday.



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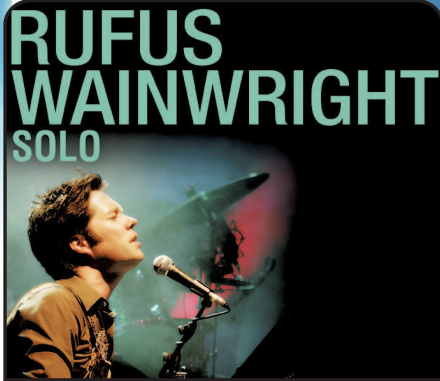
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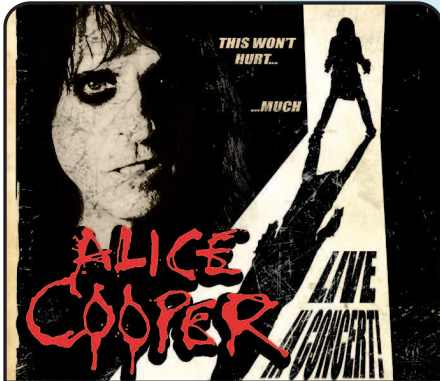
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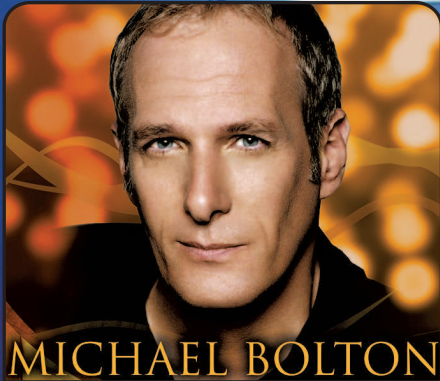
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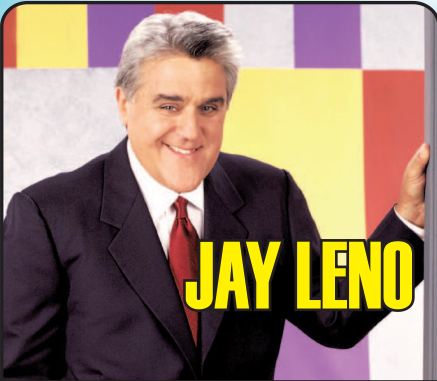
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Rick Braun & Richard Elliot - SUNDAY SEPT 7
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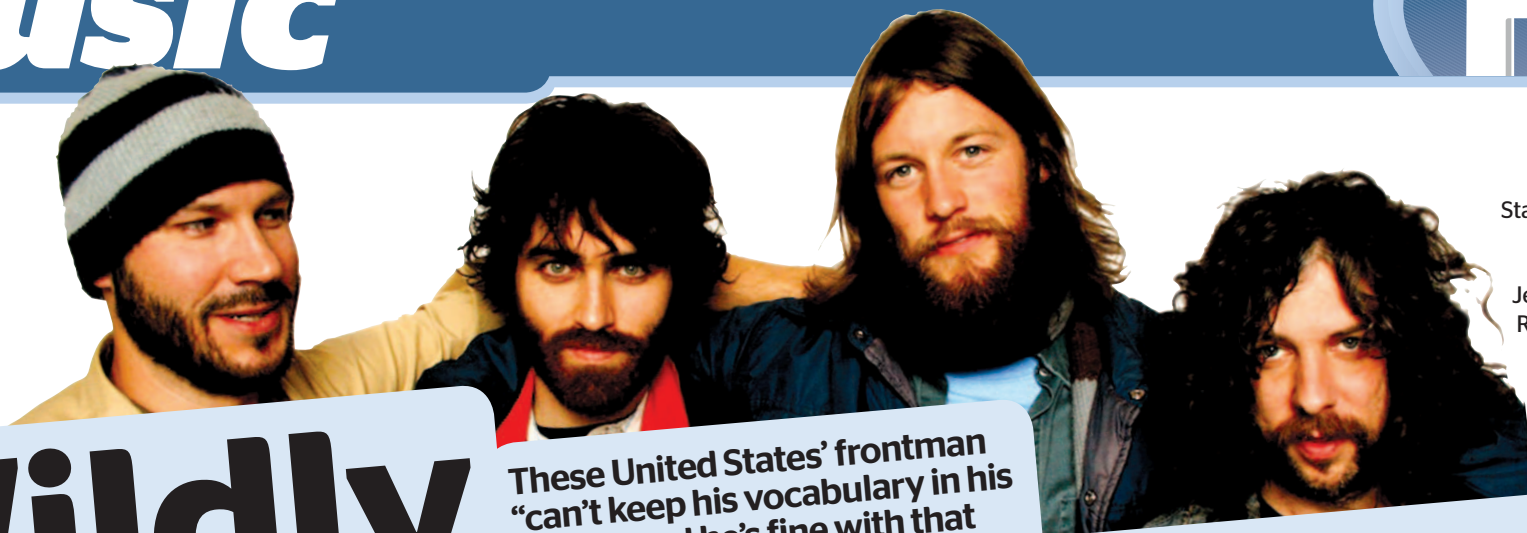
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music



These United States (from left): Tom Hnatow, Mark Charles, Jesse Elliott and Robby Cosenza

Wildly wordy

These United States' frontman "can't keep his vocabulary in his pants," and he's fine with that

By Matt Pais



here are bands that do things the easy way. And then there's These United States.

To support its ragged yet articulate debut album, "A Picture of the Three of Us at the Gate to the Garden of Eden," the Washington, D.C., folk-rock outfit performed with different musicians each night—playing 33 different shows in 33 places on its last tour.

To further solidify singer-songwriter Jesse Elliott's forget-conventional-thought perspective, These United States

recorded sophomore album, "Crimes," only nine weeks after "Eden" was released. Compared to its "carefully constructed electro-pop-psych-folk-whatever people want to call it" predecessor, Skokie-born, Elgin High grad Elliott, 27, says the new record (due out Sept. 23) is "a little more loose, live, definitely a lot more energetic." And features a proper, unchanging band on stage.

From his place in D.C., Elliott talked to us about his reputation for wordy lyrics, his impulsive nature and his passionate Muppet love.

You've got a way with words, but someone claimed you "can't keep your vocabulary in your pants."

It's legit. I knew that that was going to be a huge criticism, and I think it will be again (for) this next record. That's fine. People place different values on words and music and all of that. So I certainly don't fault people for trying to make sense of all the nonsense that I'm rambling on. To me what makes sense is the nonsense, so I try and just keep doing that.

More importantly, what is your vocabulary doing in your pants?

[Laughs] I have no idea. I don't even know where to begin with that.

Why did you go back into the studio so quickly to record "Crimes"?

There's something about catching things in

an early stage before you've worked them to death. And obviously some things creatively get a hell of a lot better with time, but I think some things dull

just a little bit as you get less excited about what you're doing. And we were certainly like, "Let's just go and do this now. Even if it's going to be a little off the wall and sloppy and improvised, let's go ahead and use that energy right now rather than wait for another two years

to release an album." We just decided to be reckless, I guess.

Have you always been impatient and reckless?

Yeah, certainly as a band we are. There's some thought that goes into the way that we do that. But I think that's when we have the most fun together. All of us have gotten into this life because we have tried other things and not enjoyed them as much. If you're

going to enjoy rock and roll you may as well enjoy it for what it is, which is fast and loose and fun and made up.

In "Jenni Anne," you sing, "Here's the plan, there is no plan." What's the best thing about having no plan?

I think it just plays to our instincts both ways, to always want a plan on the one hand and yet to always kind of know in the back of our minds as human beings, as someone put it much better than I ever could, "The best-laid plans of mice and men [often go awry]." The world doesn't conform to what we do or what we want.

What's the most spontaneous thing that you did this week?

[Laughs] I got an incredibly spontaneous,

horrible stomach bug yesterday that was a result of taking a spontaneous trip to upstate New York from New York City—and as a result forgetting to eat and wandering around in the sun for too long. And I think I got sick from some nasty rotten chicken.

Your MySpace page claims you're influenced by the Muppets' band, Electric Mayhem. How have they influenced you, in non-Muppet terms?

Oh, man. But here's the thing: Why non-Muppet? The Muppets are everything to me and most of my bandmates. They just kind of sum up life as I see it anyway. In the larger life philosophy kind of sense Dr. Teeth and the Electric Mayhem make a lot of sense to us.

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Booty Movement Coalition, Monday, Sept. 29 (\$6, 21+) at Martyrs'.

Cealed Kasket, Vlad the Impaler, Friday, Oct. 31 (\$10, 21+) at Martyrs'.

Danny Burns Defectors, Monday, Sept. 22 (\$6, 21+) at Martyrs'.

The Egg, Orchard Lounge, Saturday, Oct. 11 (\$12-\$15, 21+) at Martyrs'.

On sale 10 a.m. Friday

Dir En Gray, The Human Abstract, Wednesday, Nov. 19 (\$27-\$29, all ages) at House of Blues.

John Eddie, Wednesday, Sept. 10 (\$8, 21+) at Joe's Bar.

Five Finger Death Punch, Friday, Oct. 17 (\$14-\$17, all ages) at House of Blues.

Gwar, Toxic Holocaust, Thursday, Oct. 30 (\$21-\$23, 17+) at House of Blues.

Matt Nathanson, Jesse Baylin, Thursday, Nov. 20, Friday, Nov. 21 (\$18-\$20, all ages) at House of Blues.

Heidi Newfield, Thursday, Sept. 25 (\$10, 21+) at Joe's Bar.

Randy Newman, Friday, Oct. 10 (\$39.50-\$49.50, all ages) at Genesee Theatre, Waukegan.

Jake Owen, Friday, Nov. 21 (\$12, 21+) at Joe's Bar.

Pendulum, Friday, Oct. 3 (\$21-\$23, 17+) at House of Blues.

Redman, Method Man, Friday, Oct. 24 (\$29.50-\$32, 17+) at House of Blues.

The Roots, Gym Class Heroes, Estelle, Friday, Oct. 24 (\$33.50-\$36, all ages) at Congress Theater.

State Radio, Saturday, Oct. 4 (\$15.50-\$17, all ages) at House of Blues.

On sale noon Friday

Bearsuit, Canasta, Pale Young Gentlemen, Colour Me Pop DJs, Sunday, Oct. 19 (\$8, 18+) at Schubas.

Mae, Thursday, Oct. 23 (\$20, all ages) at Schubas.

Mahjongg, Yea Big + Kid Static, DJ Jordan Z, Thursday, Aug. 28 (\$5, 21+) at Schubas.

Jimmy Webb, Friday, Oct. 17, Saturday, Oct. 18 (\$25, 21+) at Schubas.

Justin Webb, Sara Melson, Tuesday, Sept. 16 (\$8, 21+) at Schubas.

On sale 10 a.m. Saturday

Chiodos, Silverstein, Escape the Fate, Thursday, Nov. 13 (\$22, all ages) at Riviera Theatre.

Nick Lowe, Paul Cebal, Thursday, Oct. 14 (\$32, 21+) at The Green Mill.

Underoath, Saosin, The Devil Wears Prada, Personal Space L, Saturday, Nov. 1 (\$22, all ages) at Riviera Theatre.

Weezer, Angels and Airwaves, Tokyo Police Club, Thursday, Oct. 2 (\$40-\$50, all ages) at Allstate Arena.

On sale noon Saturday

Bang! Bang!, DJ Matt Roan, Wednesday, Sept. 24 (\$18-\$24, 21+) at Double Door.

Deerhunter, Times New Viking, Disappears, Saturday, Nov. 15 (\$17, all ages) at Metro.

DJ Icey, Baby Anne, Keith MacKenzie, Friday, Sept. 26 (\$5, 21+) at Smart Bar.

DJ Scary Lady Sarah, Friday, Oct. 31 (\$10 with costume, \$15 without costume, 18+) at Metro.

Eeks, Wednesday, Sept. 10 (\$5, 21+) at Smart Bar.

Donavon Frankenreiter, Thursday, Oct. 30 (\$18,

21+) at Double Door.

Ghostland Observatory, Friday, Nov. 7 (\$25, 18+) at Metro.

Pepper, Passafire, The Supervillains, Friday, Oct. 31 (\$18-\$20, all ages) at Metro.

River Oaks, Cobalt and the Hired Guns, Verona Red, Raised on Zenith, Bad Vibes, Thursday, Sept. 18 (\$7, 21+) at Double Door.

Aya Sofia, About a Girl, Thursday, Sept. 11 (\$7, 21+) at Double Door.

On sale now!

Craig Alexander, Gene Hunt, Jason Michael, Gerald Moore, Bobby Bens, Justin Nemesis, Thursday, Sept. 11 (free, 21+) at Smart Bar.

Black Spade, Thursday, Aug. 21 (free with RSVP to [\\$5, 18+](http://redbullbigtune.com)) at Metro.

Gozer, Friday, Aug. 29 (free, 21+) Double Door.

Heavy Metal in Baghdad, Tone B. Nimble, Thursday, Sept. 11 (free with RSVP to scion.com/route, 21+) at Metro.

La Femme Nikita, DJ Gilly Smash, Wednesday, Sept. 3, 24 (free, 21+) at Smart Bar.

Nas, Talib Kweli, Jay Electronica, DJ Green Lantern, Sunday, Aug. 31 (\$37.50-\$40, 17+) at House of Blues.

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Denver rockers skip, shout, surprise. With *So Long Forgotten*. 9 p.m. \$8. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. housecallent.com

OH NO! OH MY!

Awful name, quality indie pop. With *Royals Bangs*, *Antenna Shoes*. 9 p.m. \$8-\$10. Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St. 773-478-4408.

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BIG TIME SARAH

9:30 p.m. \$7. B.L.U.E.S., 2519 N. Halsted St. 773-528-1012.

BLACK WYRM SEED, AZIOLA CRY

8 p.m. \$7. Ronny's, 2101 N. California Ave. mpshows.com

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8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.

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9:30 p.m. \$8. Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

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8 p.m. Cover varies. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

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11:45 p.m. Free. Redhead Piano Bar, 16 W. Ontario St. 312-640-1000.

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8:30 p.m. Cover varies. The Underground Wonder Bar, 10 E. Walton St. 312-266-7761.

SHARMISTHA SEN, RAHUL NEUMAN, MANINDER SINGH

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9 p.m. Free. The Joynt, 650 N. Dearborn St. 312-573-2233.

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CTA NOTICES

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Advertisement for Professional Services
NOTICE OF TIME EXTENSION
Notice is hereby given that the proposed due date heretofore advertised as August 19, 2008 has been extended to August 26, 2008 at 3:30 P.M. in the Bid Office - 2nd Floor, 567 W. Lake St., Chicago, Illinois 60661-1498 for the following item:
Res. B080P80369 - W/Addendum No.1
Request For Proposals (RFP) for Actuarial Valuation of CTA's Supplemental Retirement Plans to be released as required for a period of three (3) years. For additional information, please contact Ilana Stark, Procurement Administrator, at 312-681-2650.
The contractor will be required to furnish certified copies of any and all insurance Policies required in relation to this contract prior to CTA's execution.
Chicago Transit Authority hereby gives notice that it will affirmatively ensure that in regard to any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and Women's Business Enterprise will be afforded full opportunity to submit responses to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color or national origin in consideration for an award.
PLEASE NOTE: Where proposals are sent by mail, delivery service or delivered in-person to the CTA Bid Office, the bidders shall be responsible for their delivery only to the Bid Office before the advertised due date and hour for the proposals. The Bid Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Chicago time, except holidays. The right is reserved to accept any proposal or to reject any and all proposals. All inquiries should be directed to and copies of the documents obtained from the Bid Office - 2nd Floor, 567 W. Lake St., Chicago, Illinois 60661-1498.
CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
By: Robert Conlin
General Manager, Purchasing
August 13, 2008

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago will hold examinations for the following classifications:
Assistant Personnel Analyst (Promotional)
Associate Personnel Analyst (Original and Promotional)
Applications and examination information are available on our website at www.mwrd.org
Please submit application to
Personnel Public Service Office
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
100 East Erie Street, First Floor
Chicago, IL 60611
To have an application mailed, email us at jobs@mwr.org or call 312-751-5100 for further information.
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NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID TO
METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO
Sealed proposals, endorsed as below, will be deposited in the sealed bid depository located in the lobby of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Administration Building, 100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611, from the date of the Invitation to Bid, up to 11:00 A.M. on the bid opening date, and will be opened publicly by the Purchasing Agent or her designee at 11:00 A.M. on the stated bid opening date below for:
CONTRACT 08-789-12
FURNISH AND DELIVER THREE ELECTRIC MOTORS TO THE NORTH SIDE WATER RECLAMATION PLANT (RE-BID)
Estimated Cost: Group A: \$12,000.00 Bid Deposit: None
Estimated Cost: Group B: \$12,500.00
Estimated Cost: Group C: \$20,500.00
Estimated Cost: Group D: \$45,000.00
Bid Opening: August 26, 2008
CONTRACT 08-978-12
FURNISH, DELIVER AND INSTALL REPLACEMENT CARPETING IN THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OFFICES AT THE STICKNEY WATER RECLAMATION PLANT (RE-BID)
Estimated Cost: \$23,000.00 Bid Deposit: \$1,100.00
Bid Opening: September 9, 2008

The above is an abbreviated version of the Notice Invitation to Bid. For a full version which includes a brief description of the project and/or service can be found at our website at <http://mwrd.org>; click on Contract Announcements; then Date of the Advertisement.

Specifications, proposal forms and plans may be obtained from the Purchasing Department, Room 508, 100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611, Monday - Friday between 8:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. Documents, unless stated above to the contrary, will be mailed in response to a fax request (#312/751-3042). No fee is required for the contract documents unless stated above. The District assumes no responsibility for documents sent through the mail.

Proposals must be submitted on proposal forms. Proposal forms are to be placed in the special envelope furnished by the District and shall conform to the terms and conditions of the Bidding Requirements attached thereto. Bidders are to include with their proposal signed copies of any addenda, or acknowledge receipt of any addenda, if the District issued any addenda to this contract. Failure to do so may be cause for the rejection of any bid.

Each proposal must be accompanied by a bid deposit in the form of cash (U.S. currency only), cashier's check, certified check or bid bond, as stated in the Bidding Requirements and Instructions to Bidders contained in the contract document. The bid bond must be underwritten by a surety licensed to do business in the State of Illinois, listed in the latest copy of the Federal Register and approved by the Purchasing Agent.

If after receipt of the Contract Documents there are any questions regarding procedural details, please contact the Purchasing Department at (312) 751-6643.

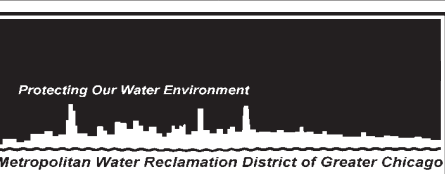
All Contracts for the Construction of Public Works are subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1-12), where it is stated in the Invitation to Bid Page.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals if deemed in the public's best interest.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
By Darlene A. LoCascio Purchasing Agent
Chicago, Illinois August 13, 2008

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago will hold an examination for the following classifications:
Senior Civil Engineer (Original and Promotional)
Applications and examination information are available on our website at www.mwrd.org
Please submit application to
Personnel Public Service Office
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
100 East Erie Street, First Floor
Chicago, IL 60611
To have an application mailed, email us at jobs@mwr.org or call 312-751-5100 for further information.
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YOU'RE KIDDING?
It is estimated that at any one time, 0.7% of the world's population is drunk.



MWRDGC to Auction its Surplus Online
Effective on or about August 01, 2008, The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District will begin auctioning off surplus property using the State of Illinois' auction website known as iBid. (www.ibid.illinois.gov)

A wide variety of items will be available, including generators, motors, pumps, phones, electronics, lighting, plumbing & HVAC supplies, consumables, and hundreds of other items. Many items are only slightly used, or in good condition.

Each item or lot has its own auction and time frame. To bid, participants will need a credit card and a driver's license. Pertinent information is found on the iBid website. (www.ibid.illinois.gov)

DISCLAIMER & ABSENCE OF WARRANTIES:
The property is being sold on an "AS IS" basis, and no warranty or representation either expressed or implied, concerning this property is made by the Seller or the Auction Company. Each prospective bidder is responsible for conducting his or her own independent investigations, inquiries, and due diligence concerning the property. The information contained herein is subject to verification by all parties relying on it. ALL SALES ARE FINAL.

PAYMENT & SHIPPING:
The MWRDGC will presently accept credit cards only. Items can either be picked up in person, or via a shipper, after verification of payment in full. The buyer assumes full freight charges.

For more information, check the header, "Doing Business with the District" on the District's website: <http://www.mwrd.org/>, click through to, "Surplus Materials on Auction."

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

A class action settlement has been reached in Curtis, et al. v. Vienna Beef Ltd., a lawsuit pending in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois (Case No. 07 CH 27980). In that lawsuit, the Plaintiffs allege that Defendant Vienna Beef Ltd. engaged in misleading advertising and marketing of its "natural casing" products. These products (referred to below as the "Natural Casing Products") consist of all Vienna Beef Ltd. products that have either pork/hog or sheep casings, including the following: Vienna Beef Natural Casing Jumbo Franks, Vienna Beef Natural Casing Polish Sausage, Vienna Beef Natural Casing Knockwurst, Vienna Beef Frankwurst, and Vienna Beef Natural Casing Franks. The court in the lawsuit has granted preliminary approval of the settlement and directed that this notice be published prior to considering whether to grant final approval to the settlement.

While the Defendant denies any wrongdoing, it has agreed to modify its advertising and marketing of its Natural Casing Products and to make financial benefits available to the following persons (the "Settlement Class"): All consumers residing in the United States (including the District of Columbia, territories and possessions) who have consumed and/or purchased any Vienna Beef Natural Casing Products and a) did not know that the casing on the Natural Casing Product consisted of pork/hog or sheep intestine and b) would not have consumed and/or purchased the National Casing Product if they had known the product's casing consisted of pork/hog or sheep intestine.

All members of the Settlement Class should visit www.caclawyers.com/viennasettlement.html, which contains complete information about the lawsuit and the settlement, including how Settlement Class members can submit a claim to receive money under the settlement, how to be excluded from the settlement, how to object to final approval of the settlement, and the date and location of the final approval hearing. If you don't have access to the internet or otherwise have questions about the settlement, you may write to or call Plaintiffs' attorney, Lance A. Raphael, 180 W. Washington St., Ste. 700, Chicago, IL 60602 (312) 782-5808.



A surfer once sued another surfer for "stealing his wave." The case was thrown out because the court was unable to put a price on "pain and suffering" endured by the surfer watching someone else ride "his" wave.

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Protestors stand outside Monday's premiere of "Tropic Thunder" in L.A. AP

Mental disability groups protest 'Tropic Thunder'

Associated Press

"Tropic Thunder" is pushing the boundaries of good taste too far for groups representing the mentally disabled.

Dozens of people from organizations such as the Special Olympics and the American Association of People with Disabilities protested the movie-industry spoof across the street from the film's L.A. premiere at Mann's Bruin Theatre on Monday.

The groups are outraged over scenes featuring the liberal usage of a disparaging term used to describe the mentally disabled. In the movie, director and co-star Ben Stiller plays a fame-hungry actor cast in a war movie who previously had a role as a mentally disabled character named Simple Jack.

"I think it's open to interpretation and that's the great thing," Robert Downey Jr., who stars in the film, told AP Television at the Monday night premiere. "You know, if I want to protest something because it offends me that's my right as an American, and it's also any artist's right to say and do whatever they wanna do."

Andrew Imparato, president of the American Association of People with Disabilities, said he and other advocacy groups met with DreamWorks co-chair Stacey Snider and watched a private screening of the film Monday morning. Imparato called the movie "tasteless" and said it was "offensive start to finish."

Following the original complaints from the advocacy groups, DreamWorks pulled some promotional materials, including a Web site that promoted the film-within-a-film starring Stiller's character which contained the tag line "Once there was a retard." DreamWorks spokesman Chip Sullivan previously said in a statement that "no changes or cuts to the film will be made."

Black comedy?

'Tropic Thunder' star's portrayal of a black man is risky business

By Miki Turner
FOR REDEYE

Robert Downey Jr. has had some tough assignments as an actor, but few roles compare to the risk he's taking in the comedy "Tropic Thunder."

The white American star plays Oscar-winning Australian actor Kirk Lazarus, who surgically dyes his skin to portray an African-American soldier named Lincoln Osiris in a Vietnam War epic called "Tropic Thunder."

Downey, who had just finished filming his huge hit from earlier this year, "Iron Man," had reservations about the role when co-writer-director-producer Ben Stiller offered it to him.

"I thought, '[Bleep] Ben Stiller.' He's going to call me up and say I want to do a great big movie with you, but I want you to have the highest risk factor and maybe put you up to ridicule and have people hate you for doing something you should have known was [bleeping] wrong to do," Downey recently told a group of reporters in L.A.

Eventually, however, Downey took the bait—and went for it.

"There would be times I'd be in make-up for a couple of hours and ... I'd look at myself in the mirror and talk to myself as the character," he said. "I swear to God it was one of the most therapeutic [things]. I would actually have this strange transcendent experience."

In other words, Downey felt comfortable in his new skin, but not to the extent that he wanted to take Lincoln out for a test run on the streets of his Malibu neighborhood.

"No! I'm not an idiot," he said when the

FAST PAID

Robert Downey Jr.'s performance perfectly depicts an actor who's gone too far and so believes in his transformation he's unable to return to his real self."

—Matt Pais, metromix movie producer (go to metromix.com)

idea was suggested.

Joining Downey in the film are Stiller, Jack Black, Jay Baruchel, Steve Coogan, Danny McBride and Brandon T. Jackson. They play the prima donna actors and director (Coogan) of the film within the film. This motley crew, with the help of an explosion gone awry, contribute to the film's budget woes—making it the most expensive war movie ever made. When investors pull the plug, the director convinces the stars to finish the film at a different location in the jungles of Southeast Asia.

What they don't know is that the bad guy "extras" they encounter are part of an actual heroin manufacturing operation led by a grade school-aged drug lord.

Downey's role stirred up some controversy when the first photos showing Downey in character were released. But since then, he hasn't faced much backlash for his portrayal.

Downey recently told reporters his role and the movie are a satirical send-up of the self-importance of actors.

"The whole idea of actors taking themselves seriously is the funniest thing I've ever seen," Downey said. "The whole film is based on the idea that what we do on

some level is offensive and who we are on some level is despicable and pathetic. Which is the truth and not the truth. But the part that is the truth is entertaining."

Downey relied on Jackson, who plays the film's real black actor, Alpa Chino, to tell him if he was going too far in the role. After all, getting audiences to accept such a stereotypical portrayal of a black man—even in a comedy—is a risky venture.

"He helped us a lot," Downey said. "He'd say, 'I can call you that but you can't call me that.' And I'd say, 'I know.' If I had called him that—you know there are so many ways in a blink of an eye that it could have gone wrong."

According to Jackson, Downey was just as dedicated to the part as the actor he's satirizing.

"Robert Downey, that dude, he never left character the whole time. He was black the whole time," Jackson said. "My mom came up to the set, she thought he was Don Cheadle."

Stiller encouraged Downey to just go for it.

"I just wanted him to make the character as two-dimensional as possible," Stiller said. "I wanted him to go where his instincts told him to go."

Next up for Downey, who is having a great year, is the sequel to "Iron Man," reprising his role as Tony Stark/Iron Man.

"I'm stoked," Downey said. "I'm excited to do another 'Iron Man.'"

L.A. DAILY NEWS, DETROIT NEWS CONTRIBUTED.

I was just thinking: 'You're black. You're an Army sergeant. You're a [bleeping] badass.' I was just looking around, thinking, 'I have to take care of these people.' And, no offense, I'm looking around thinking, 'These [bleeping] dumb white boys.' So I actually got the ultimate experience of probably what some people are thinking when they're looking at me."

—ROBERT DOWNEY JR. on his role in "Tropic Thunder," speaking to the L.A. Daily News



Welcome to the jungle

Ben Stiller's "Tropic Thunder" examines what happens when a group of self-absorbed Hollywood A-listers go deep into the jungles of Southeast Asia to heighten the realism of the war movie they're making—and end up getting more reality than they bargained for. It's a big-budget war movie about a big-budget war movie. Here are the actors and the actors they portray. **L.A. DAILY NEWS**

BEN STILLER

1 **Who he plays:** Washed-up action superstar Tugg Speedman

ROBERT DOWNEY JR.

2 **Who he plays:** Aussie Method actor Kirk Lazarus

NICK NOLTE

3 **Who he plays:** Grizzled Vietnam vet John "Four Leaf" Tayback, whose autobiography inspired the film-within-a-film

JACK BLACK

4 **Who he plays:** Jeff Portnoy, star of lowbrow comedy franchise "The Fatties"

BRANDON T. JACKSON

5 **Who he plays:** Rapper-actor Alpa Chino

JAY BARUCHEL

6 **Who he plays:** Rookie actor Kevin Sandusky

Days of 'Thunder'

Tom Cruise does a cameo in "Tropic Thunder" as a bald, profane and very angry studio executive. It is said to have been inspired by his dealings with Sumner Redstone, the chairman of Viacom, Paramount's parent company, among others. Here's what some of the cast and crew had to say about Cruise:

Ben Stiller: "He wanted really big hands. 'OK, Tom. You can have really big hands.' I thought he should be bald. Then we took the hair from his head and grafted it onto his chest."

Nick Nolte: "Tom has had his fair share of trouble with studio executives. I'm sure he's very pleased with being able to state—how should I put it?—a certain lacking in sensitivity on their parts."

Jay Baruchel: "I remember being at the table reading and being taken aback. I mean, he was doing it with such relish. I think he has been waiting his whole career to say (bleep) with that level of anger."

Screenwriter Justin Theroux: "We wanted the guy to be as terrible and horrifying as possible, and Tom just threw himself into it. Was it an act of revenge? Maybe."

L.A. DAILY NEWS

txtable

OSCAR TALK

Robert Downey Jr.'s character in "Tropic Thunder" is an Oscar-winning actor, but Downey hasn't won one himself, although he's been nominated. For which movie did he earn an Academy Award nomination for best actor? Text "oscar" and the number of your answer to 47383. You'll get a message telling you if you got the answer right.

1. Good Night, and Good Luck
2. Natural Born Killers
3. Chaplin
4. Less Than Zero
5. Wonder Boys



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Frozen water goes gourmet for some

New York Times News Service

Was that Hoshizaki or Kold-Draft that you wanted with your Grey Goose?

Did you say you like your cocktail with a cube or a lozenge or a tube with a dimpled end? Do you want that iced tea served over crushed or would you prefer fragmented?

Questions like those may seem crazy to people content to cool a summer drink with chunks of ice from the freezer. But for some, the idea of consuming generic ice is enough to raise goose bumps.

There are those—and don't wear yourself out looking for statistical surveys on this one—for whom water in chunky frozen form is a source not merely of interest but also obsession. You can find them—alongside every other compulsive with an affinity group—on the Web.

They forgo freezer ice altogether in favor of the commercially produced kind, ordering products like the Air AI-100S portable ice cube maker. Some aficionados, like country singer Vince Gill, even raise the ante by installing commercial-grade ice machines in their homes. And some set out on a kind of gourmet ice

hegira (Safeway to Gristedes to Fairway) whenever friends come to drink.

Carolyn Polk did not start out as an "ice snob." For most of her life, the 41-year-old St. Louis native staved off the heat of Midwestern summers with the generic freezer cubes. A couple years back, though, Polk noted a change in the habits of her guests, who casually started bringing their own ice. Her ice apparently was not to her friends' liking.

"B.Y.O.I. was a turning point for me," Polk said of the moment at which she exited the world of generic ice use and entered another.

"Ice is a food," said Jane McEwen, the executive director of the International Packaged Ice Association, voicing a mantra often heard in an industry laboring to lend gourmet associations to something seasonal, perishable and cheap.

The average American buys four bags of packaged ice each year; 80 percent of all packaged ice is sold between Memorial and Labor days. Promoters from within the \$2.5 billion packaged ice industry would like to change ice's hoi polloi associations, give it some of the swank that marketing geniuses injected into bottles of designer water.

Ice snobbery, to be certain, is no trend in the making. Packaged ice accounts for a mere .5 percent of all sales at American convenience stores, according to Don Longo, the editor of Convenience Store News, a number that has stayed flat for years.

As for consumers worried that their ice, like their water, may have picked something up on its way from the icy depths of underground aquifers to the

ICE, ICE BABY

Every cube of ice has the same essential end point, ice experts say, but its use can be manipulated to improve the quality of the drink it cools. Here are a few examples:

- >> Fragmented ice—soda fountain drinks
- >> Nugget and cube ice—mixed drinks
- >> Shaved ice—snow cones!

Chewable ice

To satisfy the Freudian cravings of the legions of ice chewers—they have a Web site, icechewing.com—manufacturers have begun making products like Pearl Ice and Nugget Ice, commodities that in texture fall somewhere between the tongue-numbing chips of a snow cone and the molar-shattering hunks from a freezer tray.

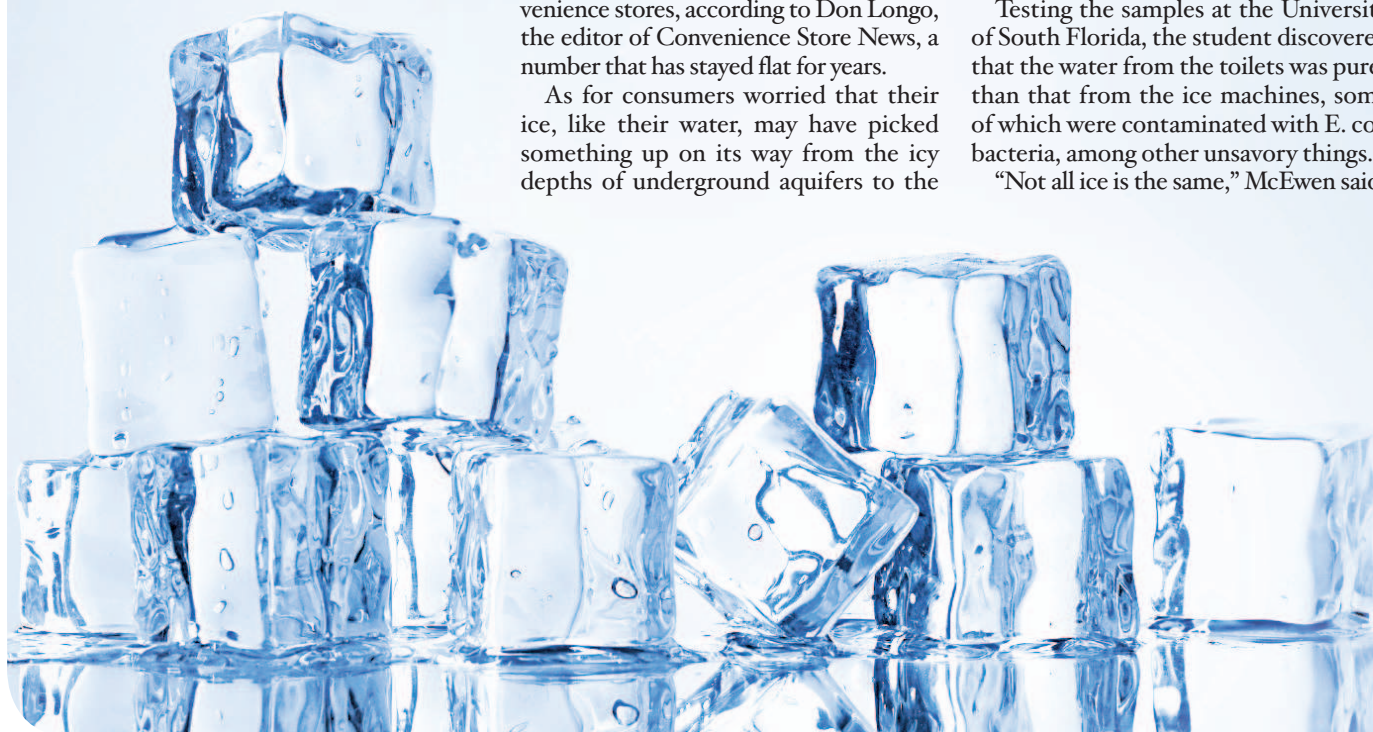
supermarket shelves, groups like the IPIA have pushed to certify ice made by its 240 members.

"You want to be sure you are getting good ice," McEwen said. "If it isn't certified, how do you know?"

Two years ago, the issue of ice purity was unexpectedly brought into focus when a Florida 7th grader, Jasmine Roberts, made national headlines for a science project that compared the purity of water from ice machines to that from the toilets in a variety of fast-food restaurants.

Testing the samples at the University of South Florida, the student discovered that the water from the toilets was purer than that from the ice machines, some of which were contaminated with E. coli bacteria, among other unsavory things.

"Not all ice is the same," McEwen said.



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Online Olympics almost gold

Associated Press

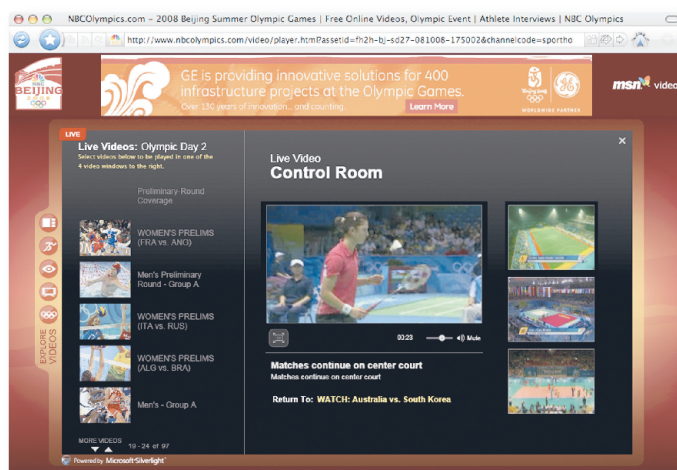
NBC Universal is running an unprecedented 3,600 hours of Olympics coverage on TV and the Internet, most of it live online, letting fans track their favorite sports in a way not possible even if they'd gone to Beijing.

At 4:45 a.m. Sunday, users could catch cycling, handball, archery and rowing events on nbcolympics.com as they happen half a world away in China—13 hours ahead of Chicago.

Some of the events are available later on-demand. And NBC's enhanced video player brings up to four simultaneous feeds—live, on-demand or a combination—allowing users to keep up.

The video isn't full-screen, but it is crisp, with little stuttering. But the Internet won't be replacing TV anytime soon. At most, it's good for sneaking in some tennis at work or watching events not likely to get more than highlights on TV.

The video is free. Users have to watch a 30-second ad before the event. Users also need Microsoft's Silverlight—also free and relatively simple to install.



NBC does check your computer's Internet Protocol address to make sure you are in the U.S., where NBC has the rights to broadcast the games.

With NBC's quad-screen "control room," users can choose what runs on the four screens and pick which of the four is larger at any given time.

These feeds are broadcast quality, with

multiple camera angles, graphics and other gizmos you'd expect from a TV production. NBC is simply showing the feed made available worldwide to broadcasters that lack their own cameras.

What users don't get is on-air commentary. Instead, text commentary appears for a handful of events from partners like **tennis.com**. The commentary isn't as extensive as the

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chatter you'd find on TV, but the basics are there.

Besides the quad screens, NBC is offering "picture-in-picture" viewing. You could watch Michael Phelps' medal-winning swim, for instance, while following the Angola-Germany men's basketball game on the bigger screen. That is, if you can figure out what "PIP" means and know to click on it.

Users can search video by sport or country but not both. So there's no easy way to know, for instance, which boxing segment has that competitor from Sweden—nor is there a consistent way to jump directly to that bout. At most, if the event had text commentary, users can scan it and jump to a particular segment.

Most importantly, the video lacks the basic functions of digital video recorders like TiVo. You can't pause or rewind live feeds, or watch a key play in slow motion. With on-demand clips, you can slide a bar to move forward or back, but you merely jump to that point rather than see video speedily as you would with DVRs and VCRs.

Still, NBC should be commended for going this far with video.

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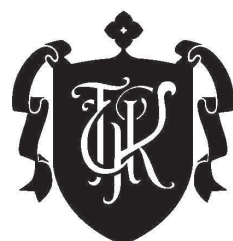
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Mad about Madden

By George Mathis

COX NEWS SERVICE

In some huddles, the annual debut of the venerable Madden football series is as eagerly anticipated as the opening kickoff of the actual NFL season. And, each year, fans are left wondering if the latest offering contains enough “new” to justify shelling out 60 bucks. This year there can be little doubt as improved play-calling makes Madden NFL '09 the most challenging yet.



WHAT'S NEW

Adaptive AI: When using the My Skills difficulty setting, the computer learns your strengths and weaknesses and uses them against you.

Virtual trainer: Madden is missing from the announcer's booth, but makes an appearance to test players' skills at running, passing and defense. The resulting Madden IQ can be used to compare the skills of different players. Chris Collingsworth and Tom Hammond are the new in-game announcers. Hammond is robotic, while Collingsworth seemingly can't shut up.

Rewind: Want to forget that fumble ever happened? Once per game, players can replay a down. The effect is cool, but hard-core gamers will resist the urge.

Backtrack: Collingsworth breaks down game-changing plays, but the points he makes are worthless.

» Franchise mode and Superstar mode have been expanded.

» Online leagues get an upgrade. Players can set up and manage 32-team leagues complete with trades and postseason games.

» Support for fantasy football leagues.

Good

» The adaptive AI keeps scores closer. The game tracks how well a player performs in passing, running, run defense and pass defense and makes adjustments. This is particularly noticeable in the passing game. Players are forced to abandon the Hail Mary and must grind out short yardage by running the ball and using short passes. The handicapping system works in two-player games, so beating up on your little brother just got a lot tougher.

» New weather effects and player animations—athletes now slip and slide in mud and ice—along with more diverse camera angles create a more authentic presentation.

» The PS3 RumbleShock controller, which vibrates with each big hit, is supported for the first time.

» The game's cover has QB Brett Favre wearing his Packers duds, even though he was traded to the Jets. EA has provided a new cover for fans to download and print out.

Bad

» At higher difficulty levels, the game cheats shamelessly. Computer-controlled players rarely drop a pass or miss a tackle, but player-controlled athletes become more error prone. Frustratingly, interceptions seem to be Madden's equalizer of last resort.

» The game often marks players down where they are tackled, not at the farthest point they advanced the ball.

» Computer-controlled players often run out of bounds before reaching a first down, even if they are nowhere near a defender.

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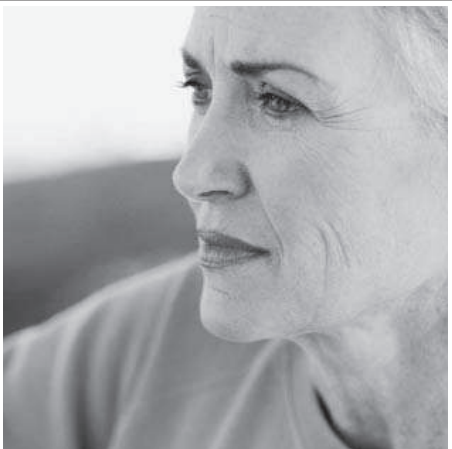
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Get the best blow dry

Chicago Tribune

The same two-headed monster resurfaces every August: Frizzy yet flat hair.

Relief, say seasoned stylists, is blowing in the wind.

"I had so many clients who would sit in my chair and say, 'I wish I could get my hair to look like this when I leave here,'" said Erica Badke, co-owner of Salon Slice in Wrigleyville. "So I decided to put together a class to teach some of our blow-dry tricks."

At the monthly Blow Dry Boot Camp, Badke has

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When: 7 p.m. Aug. 27.

Where: Salon Slice, 3757 N. Racine Ave., RSVP 773-244-4030.

Cost: \$45; includes a Marilyn brush, clips and a Texture Expert styling product; snacks and wine during class.

taught women techniques that eliminate the need for flat-ironing afterward.



Step 1

"Get hair 90 percent dry before you start in with the brush," Badke said. First, Badke applies a styling product suited to the client's hair texture from L'Oreal Professionnel Texture Expert, \$20-\$25.

Step 2

Clip up tiers of hair then begin drying and smoothing from the bottom with a boar-bristle brush. Badke likes Marilyn round brushes, \$20-\$26; themarilynbrush.com. "It helps smooth and add shine to the hair if you work with a softer brush instead of a hard metal brush," she said.

Step 3

At the crown, work from back to front, rolling hair onto brush then unrolling upward for body, following with your professional-grade blow-dryer. Badke likes the BaByliss Pro TT Tourmaline 3000, \$80-\$125 (at Salon Slice or folica.com). It's more than many women typically invest in a dryer, but once they try it, they're sold.

Step 4

Touch up ends with an anti-frizz serum such as Texture Expert Shine Perfection (\$20) and, voila! Your hair should be pouf-proof, even in August.



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The 'number' can ruin a good thing

Everyone has a past, so don't ask

I can think of just one relationship question that people have but don't want answered: "How many people have you slept with?"

Most people who are in love and have an established, monogamous sexual relationship don't want to imagine their partner sleeping with other people. The idea of someone else having sex with my love makes my skin crawl.

The reality, however, is that most people my age and older have a "past." The extent of that past is where things can get dicey.

The loaded conversation very likely will come up at some point, and its answer potentially could bust up an otherwise decent relationship, "Chasing Amy"-style.

I believe in healthy, honest sexual exploration, and I don't cop to the double-standard notion that women who sleep with many men the way some men do with women should be relationship pariahs.

But if I find a woman I could potentially sleep with has had more numbers than "The Dark Knight" on opening weekend, my first inquiry—after "are you clean?"—will be if she's ever had a solid relationship.

Does the actual number bother me? I can't say I have a definite answer.

I've slept with several women who have had more partners than I've had, but I didn't feel intimidated; nor did I have a burning desire to catch up to them. But then again, there's never been an extreme numerical disparity. If I ever dated a woman with whom there was one, it could challenge my entire perspective on the issue.

Frankly, I think it's normal to be somewhat off-put or intimidated by the knowledge that one's partner has slept with dozens and dozens of people. The type of promiscuity we expect from celebrities can give pause to "normal" people expecting to date other "normal" people.

It goes the other way too. Like many of my friends of both sexes, I look at virginity at my age as a big, bright red flag. If they are still virgins, they've more than likely hoisted sex up as something "special, for that one special person," blah, blah.

Plus, I prefer a partner who brings experience and comfort in their sexuality that can only come with some level of exploration.

So should we even have the numbers conversation? Several people I asked said that ignorance is bliss and that their number is "one" as far as their partner is concerned.

But many believe the conversation is worth having, if for no other reason than getting to know intimate details about your partner. As one of my homies put it: If numbers weren't important, McDonald's wouldn't post theirs at each of their restaurants.

Several people I spoke with believe that people habitually lie about their number. That's wrong. If you find your number vacillating between what you tell your partner and your friends, ask yourself where the trust is in your relationship.

The issue of numbers should boil down to two things: you and your partner being STD-free; and both being comfortable with the idea that previous sexual partners have no place in your bedroom.

Everyone's focus in a monogamous sex life should be to fulfill their partner's needs the best way they can while seeing that their needs are met as well. If I can get that, I probably could deal with it if a lady drops a three-digit number on me.

But I can't lie and say it wouldn't make me bristle a bit.

SEX COLUMNIST DUSTIN J. SEIBERT IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

TALK BACK

What has happened when you've asked about your partner's "number"? Or when they've asked you? Email Dustin at redeyesex@tribune.com. Be sure to include your full name, age and neighborhood.



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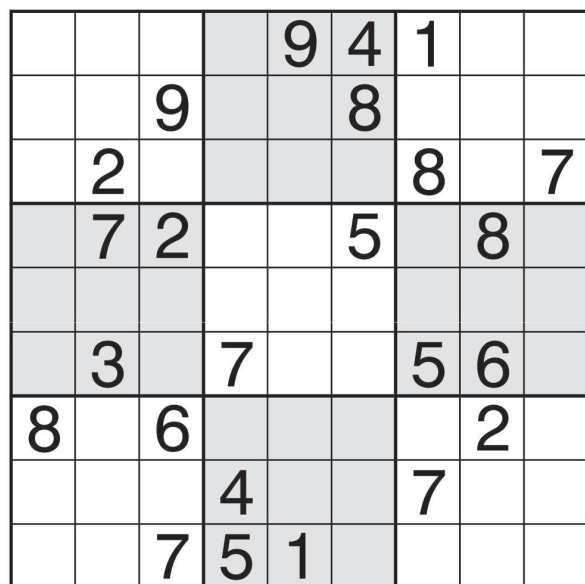
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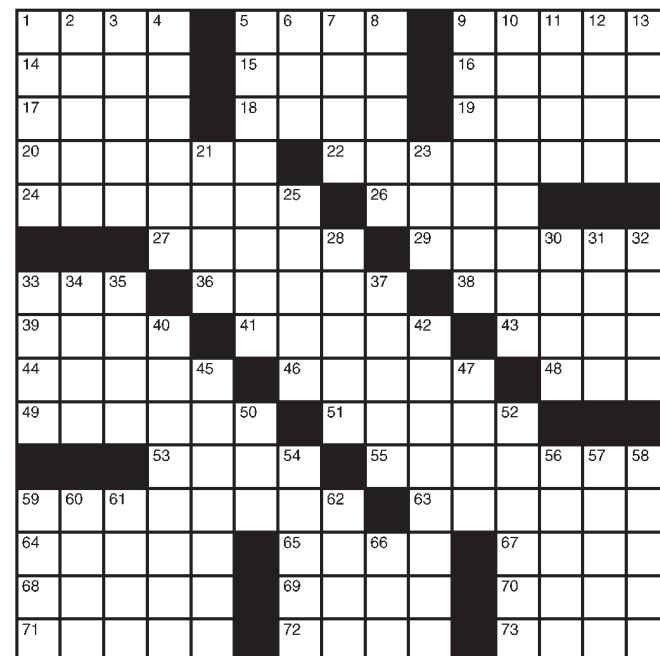
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ACROSS

- 1 Tailless amphibian
- 5 Exalted poet
- 9 Neon and argon
- 14 Isle of exile
- 15 Culture medium
- 16 Awake and aware
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DOWN

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- 2 Of long ago
- 3 Degrade



- 4 Maiden
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- 47 Discharged a debt
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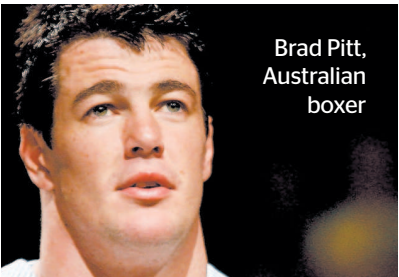


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RedEye casts the Olympics

So have you heard about this Brad Pitt guy, the Olympian? He's a standout on Australia's boxing team and has no apparent relation to the actor. Doesn't even look like him. But coming across a celeb name like that on the Olympic roster got us thinking: What if someone were to cast Team USA in a movie? Here's our best stab at an all-star cast, plus a few nickname suggestions.

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Called out

Don't call Carrie Underwood, Tony Romo—she'll call you.

"We were both small-town people doing very big things, and we relied on each other, dealing with fame," Underwood tells *Allure* of her relationship with ex-boyfriend Romo, who now dates Jessica Simpson. "I don't know. The phone will ring and it'll be him, and I'll maybe not answer."

The "American Idol" winner, who also was linked to "Gossip Girl" actor Chase Crawford for a while, spoke out again about how she has been cheated on in the past, according to excerpts from the mag.

Gold!

Jessica Alba and husband Cash Warren are all about the Olympics. "I don't know about you all, but Cash and I have been glued to the Olympics," she blogged Monday on her MySpace page. "How amazing was the opening ceremony?" Alba also gave a suggestion for getting that Olympic bod: something called living room Olympics.

'HSM' drama

A music producer has sued "High School Musical" star Vanessa Hudgens for \$5 million, claiming the actress and her father violated a contract and failed to pay him properly, AP reports. Producer Johnny Vieira claims Hudgens and her father sued to get out of an agreement but have failed to abide by settlement terms.

Move over, Tom

It's a real role reversal: Angelina Jolie is in talks to replace Tom Cruise in a spy movie, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*. Jolie is negotiating for the role in "Edwin A. Salt," the trade publication reports, and its screenplay about a CIA officer will be rewritten to accommodate a female character.

AWESOME/AWK-WARD AHH... THE EBB AND FLOW OF POP CULTURE

AWESOME: A Trent Reznor project on HBO?

Maybe we can download it for free on the Internet.

AWK-WARD:
Rumor: Adrian Grenier and Isabel Lucas split
Yeah ... about that vehicle crash, what's up with Shia?



AWESOME: Jay-Z's leaks
It's just a "Blueprint," but the plans sound nice.

AWK-WARD: Olympic lip-sync scandal
At least the fireworks were real. Oh, wait.

AWK-WARD:
Matthew Fox's and Evangeline Lilly's "Lost" salaries
What, that reported \$150,000 per episode doesn't cut it anymore?



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DIGIT

The amount that O, The Oprah Magazine, fell in newsstand sales for the first half of 2008, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations.



Kissy face

James Franco is ready for his big on-screen kiss—with Sean Penn.

Franco plays opposite Penn in the movie "Milk," out in December, about San Francisco city supervisor Harvey Milk, the country's first openly gay elected official. Penn plays Milk and Franco plays his long-time boyfriend, Scott Smith.

For one of the kissing scenes, the movie's director reportedly drew his inspiration

from an artist who filmed two strangers kissing for 12 hours. While the Penn-Franco smooch didn't last 12 hours, "it certainly felt like it," Franco told GQ for its September issue.

"I'm sure in the end it will be a really cool shot, but it starts close and then it takes maybe a minute," Franco said. "That's a long time on film with everybody watching and, like, a fake mustache getting in your mouth."

Mega-millions served

When it comes to making dough of the green variety, no celebrity chef can challenge Rachael Ray.

The talk show host and catchphrase specialist tops Forbes' recent list of the top-earning celebrity chefs, raking in a delish \$18 million a year, according to **forbes.com**. Yummo!

Hot on her heels (Or is it "hot on

OTHERS IN THE TOP 10

- » Tom Colicchio (\$2M)
- » Anthony Bourdain (\$1.5M)
- » Bobby Flay (\$1.5M)

her apron strings"? It's been a while since we've cooked anything that doesn't come with microwave instructions) are bistro big-shot Wolfgang Puck at \$16 million and "Hell's Kitchen" star Gordon Ramsay at \$7.5 million.

Blake's love life not so lively

Blake Lively gets into her fair share of sexy situations on "Gossip Girl," but she says her real life isn't as steamy.

"I've kissed just three people in my life, other than stuff that I've done for TV or movies," the actress, who plays Serena van der Woodsen, told Cosmopolitan, according to excerpts on **people.com**. "I know—I'm weird!"

"There wasn't a period in my life like Serena went through, where I was doing drugs and having sex with my best friend's boyfriend," she adds. "I never went through that kind of crazy."

Next stop, Audrina's

You've seen all the Hollywood hot spots that Lauren Conrad & Co. visit on "The Hills."

But did you know that if you visit L.A., you can take a bus tour that actually stops at her home?

Tour buses come to the house "between 15 and 20 times a day—with speakers!" Conrad told Ryan Seacrest on his morning radio show Tuesday, according to **usmagazine.com**.

"If we're about to leave and someone yells 'Star Tours,' you hit the ground. If you go down, they can't see you."

Britney: the sequel?

Britney Spears may have a VMA redo in her future.

MTV told the AP on Tuesday that the pop star is in negotiations to appear at the Sept. 7 ceremony. And, yes, this is the same awards show where she gave that bizarre, widely panned performance last year.

We pause for this wellness check: Is this a good idea, Brit?

While the network said nothing has been finalized—only Lil Wayne and the Jonas Brothers are confirmed so far—Spears is appearing in promotional ads for the telecast.

txtable

Role call

On which TV comedy did Britney Spears guest star this past season? Text "**brit**" and the number of your answer to **47383**. You'll get a message telling you if you got the answer right.

1. The Office
2. The Simpsons
3. Samantha Who?
4. How I Met Your Mother
5. Scrubs



Lively

ONLINE

Love "The Hills" so much that you'd consider taking this L.A. bus tour? Check out Leonor Vivanco's everything-"Hills" blog at **redeyechicago.com/hills**.



Spears



Rachael Ray: \$18 million